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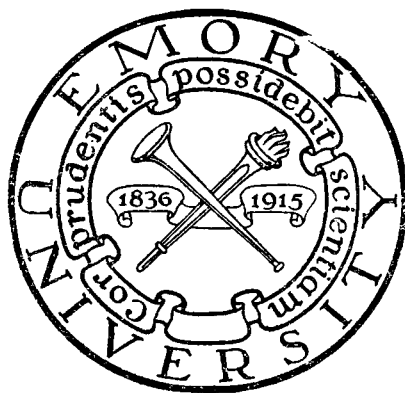
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THE BOOK OF READY-MADE SPEECHES:

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ECCLESIASTICAL.
PARLIAMENTARY.
MAGISTRACY.
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ELECTIONEERING.
CONVIVIAL.
SPORTING.
WEDDINGS.
ETC. ETC. ETC.

WITH

Appropriate Quotations, Toasts, and Sentiments.

BY

CHARLES HINDLEY.

LONDON:
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS,
THE BROADWAY, LUDGATE.
NEW YORK: 416, BROOME STREET.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WOODFALL AND KINDER,
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PREFACE.

The Book of Ready-Made Speeches is intended simply to supply hints—and *hints only*—to persons who are called upon to make a speech, and who feel themselves unable, from want of practice, to express their thoughts in appropriate language.

It is said, "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness *thrust* upon them;" and it is to the latter class, whether as the Mayor of Tweedledum, or the Chairman of the Reds, Whites, or Blues of Tweedledee, that this work is designed, and "simply to supply hints." It is evident that Mr. JOHN BRIGHT took this view of it, as when at the mayoral banquet held at Birmingham, he said: "Three or four days ago Mr. Dixon wrote me a kind note, and in a postscript he said that at this meeting there would be all sorts of people—meaning, I suppose, persons of all sorts of politics; and he said I should be expected to make a long speech without touching upon political questions; and he took the liberty of insinuating that I should find myself in a very difficult position. This, as you may suppose, gave me some alarm; and when I came to the station at Rochdale yesterday, on my way here, looking over the books in the station library, I found one which I was much tempted to buy. It was a book which contained an immense collection of model speeches for all occasions. There was, first of all, a selection of speeches suitable for chairmen when proposing the health of the members of the Royal family. Then there were speeches when the health of the army and navy was pro-

posed; and there were speeches also for the proposition of the health of the bishop and clergy of the diocese. The book was evidently got up only for very respectable people—because I observed there was no toast whatever and no speech which had any reference to Nonconformist ministers. There were also speeches for charity dinners and educational meetings, the openings of schools, and the laying of the first stones of public institutions. There were some very interesting model speeches suitable for wedding breakfasts; and these were followed in natural order by speeches that were suitable for christenings. In fact, the book was of that character that I thought it exactly suited to my case, and I hesitated a little about whether it might not be a good speculation. But last of all I thought I would rely upon my unaided efforts, and the kind indulgence of a Birmingham audience, which I have never yet found to fail me."

Now, as all persons are not in the same position as the Right Hon. Member, and able to "rely upon their unaided efforts," I have compiled this little work, and in doing so I have purposely abstained from any pompous display, either in the thoughts or style. The idea of the publication was hastily conceived, and it was as hastily executed, during the intervals snatched from an active business life, and doubtless it will be found deficient in that perspicuous arrangement with which the taste and judgment of a practised literary hand would have embellished it,—the absence of which will, however, I trust, be overlooked.

Thus much for the design of the work. I now propose to give an account of its origin.

While pursuing my vocation of a provincial bookseller, a French gentleman entering my shop, addressed me thus: "Sir, I want a little English speaker book." I placed in his hands a copy of "Enfield's Speaker," whereupon he said, "No! no! no! sir; that is not what I want: I want the little book of English Speeches." I observed that Enfield's was one of the most popular "Speakers," but that I had Mavor's, Knowles's, Brewer's, and a variety of others of a similar character; to which he replied, "No! no! no!—excuse me—I want the book of English Speeches already made to hand,

because, for example, I have to go—because I am invited—to the English wedding to-morrow—that is, the next day after that—to the wedding of my friend the English lady that spent a great portion of her life in my native town, which is in France: she marry the English gentleman, who is also my friend—all will be grand—I shall be called on to say something, when my health is what you call drunk—then I must say the speech, and I must say something about the newly-married couple—to wish joy—happiness, and all that sort of thing—something what is pretty, nice, funny—make the young folks laugh—flatter my young friends that is married—and all that; you understand—comprendre, eh?” I confessed I did not know of such a work in the English language; there were many “Letter Writers” to give persons an idea of wording a letter, “Pulpit Helps” in the shape of skeleton sermons for the instruction of young clergymen; but as to “Ready-Made Speeches,” except ponderous political ones, I did not think that such a work existed. He expressed his surprise, adding, that he had seen such books in his own and the German (Allemand) language. “It is surprise very much.” He further added, that he had been into every bookseller’s shop in the town, but that no one seemed to understand what he did really want so well as I did. I acknowledged the compliment, and being then and there struck with the “idea,” promised, as I knew of no such work, and having been frequently asked for the same thing before, that I would write and compile one by the time he came to England again—he having observed, during our conversation, that most likely he should have to come in another year for the “christening,” and then he should have to say something else—“make another speech.” Taking the hint as above, I have written and compiled *The Book of Ready-Made Speeches*, which I now present to the English public—*in part to supply hints.*

As this work originated in respect to a wedding, and as there is scarcely any time in our “life’s journey” when “hints” are more required, not only for speech-making, but also in the arrangements of the wedding-day,—the success of which is at times somewhat marred, not from a lack of desire, or a lack of funds, but from a

want of organization and aforethought,—and that much of the wedding-day “confusion worse confounded” may be obviated, I beg to draw the attention of fathers, mothers, brides, bridegrooms, bridesmaids, groomsmen, best-men, &c. &c., to the contents of a handbook, entitled “*The Etiquette of Courtship and Matrimony*,” with a complete guide to the forms of a wedding, published by Messrs. George Routledge & Son, price Sixpence, which is arranged thus:—

CHAPTER I. FIRST STEPS IN COURTSHIP. Advice to both parties at the outset; Introduction to the Lady's family.—CHAPTER II. ETIQUETTE OF COURTSHIP. Restrictions imposed by Etiquette; what the Lady should observe in Early Courtship; what the Suitor should observe in ditto; Etiquette as to Presents; the Proposal; Mode of Refusal when not approved; Conduct to be observed by a Rejected Suitor; Refusal by the Lady's Parents or Guardians.—CHAPTER III. ETIQUETTE OF AN ENGAGEMENT. Demeanour of the Betrothed Pair; should a Courtship be long or short?—CHAPTER IV. PRELIMINARY ETIQUETTE OF A WEDDING. Fixing the Day; how to be Married: by Banns, Licence, &c.; the Trousseau; Duties to be attended to by the Bridegroom; who should be asked to the Wedding; Bridesmaids and Bridegroom's men, duties of.—CHAPTER V. ETIQUETTE OF A WEDDING. Costume of Bride, Bridesmaids, and Bridegroom; Arrival at the Church; the Marriage Ceremonial; Registry of the Marriage; Return Home and Wedding Breakfast; Departure for the Honeymoon. CHAPTER VI. ETIQUETTE AFTER THE WEDDING. Wedding Cards: Modern Practice of “No Cards;” Reception and Return of Wedding Visits.—CHAPTER VII. PRACTICAL ADVICE TO A NEWLY-MARRIED COUPLE.

Lastly, the reader is desired to take the advice of the poet, who says—“Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

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LITTLE PEDDLINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY —, 18—

BANQUET

TO

ESQ.

CHAIRMAN, ————— ESQ.

List of Toasts.

TOAST.	PROPOSER.	RESPONDER.
1. The Queen	The Chairman	
	The National Anthem.	
2. The Prince and Princess of Wales and the Rest of the Royal Family	The Chairman	
	"God Bless the Prince of Wales."	
3. The Army, Navy, and Volunteers	Mr. ———	{ Col. Brown. Capt. Jones, R.N. Col. Robinson.
	"Rule Britannia."	
4. The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese, and the Ministers of all Denominations	Mr. ———	The Rev. A. ———
	"Our dear old Church of England."	
5. The Lord Lieutenant and the County and Borough Magis- trates	Mr. ———	Mr. B.
	"The fine old English Gentleman."	
6. The Houses of Lords and Commons	Mr. ———	{ Mr. C——, M.P. Sir D——, Bt. M.P.
	"I'd rather be an Englishman."	
7. John E. ———, Esq.	The Chairman	Mr. E——
	"There's a good Time coming, boys."	
8. Prosperity to the Town and Trade of Little Peddlington ..	Mr. ———	Mr. F——
	Song by ———	
9. The Mayor and Corporation of Little Peddlington	Mr. ———	The Mayor.
	Glee—"Mynheer Van Dunck."	
10. The Chairman	Mr. ———	The Chairman.
	"Scots wha hae."	
11. The Visitors	Mr. ———	Mr. G——
	"Auld Lang Syne."	
12. The Ladies	Mr. H. ———, Jun.	
	"Green grow the Rushes O!"	

LOYAL.

THE QUEEN,
THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

THE QUEEN,
AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.

LOYAL TOASTS AND SENTIMENTS,
WITH APPROPRIATE POETICAL QUOTATIONS.

Toast.

"THE QUEEN."

The Chairman.

GENTLEMEN,—The first toast I shall have the honour to offer to your notice is one that always takes precedence of all others, and one the proposing of which is at all times a pleasing duty for a chairman to perform, knowing the hearty response it is sure to meet with in an assembly of loyal and dutiful Englishmen.

"Be England what she will,
With all her faults she is my country still."

Gentlemen, Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria has ever been a favourite with Englishmen; and they have many causes to be proud of her—God bless her! She has ruled this nation with a silken cord, and is beloved by the whole of her subjects—the high and low, the rich and poor.

"England is safe, if true within itself."

Gentlemen, as a monarch, her conduct has been most exemplary; as a Queen, a pattern worthy of imitation by all nations through all

ages. We have seen her as a maiden, a wife, a mother, and a widow, and in each of those characters she has won our esteem and respect, and we have ever been proud as Englishmen to call her "Ours." As a maiden, a wife, and a mother, she has in each of life's various phases set a pattern well worthy of imitation, and we have all been anxious that our daughters might be seen walking in the path, so beautiful and heaven-like, pursued by Her Most Gracious Majesty.

" 'Tis better to have loved and lost,
Than never to have loved at all."

Gentlemen, proud and happy must be the nation that is governed by such a monarch! Happy must be the people who live in these peaceful times! The time has been, and that well within the memory of some of the oldest of those now assembled, when the nation was not so prosperous, the people not so happy. The country has at times been plunged into expensive and sanguinary wars, but we live now at peace and goodwill with the whole of the world. I therefore give you "The Health of the Queen," who reigns in the hearts of all her subjects.

The Queen—and may she ever merit the esteem and love of her people.

"THE QUEEN."

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to propose the health of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, Defender of the Faith. Her Majesty has ever governed as a constitutional Queen, and however much Englishmen may be divided in political opinions, there is one point on which we are all agreed—in attachment, loyalty, and affection to our gracious Queen, Victoria. Long may Victoria reign, gentlemen! That is the wish—the prayer, not only of ———s, but of every Englishman who is worthy the name of an Englishman. I give you, gentlemen, "The Health of Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria."

The Queen—may she always exercise the prerogative with which she is invested for the peace and happiness of her people.

"THE QUEEN."

GENTLEMEN,—The first toast at all meetings in this country is one which is always received with the greatest respect and the greatest enthusiasm. I beg leave to propose to you "The Health of Her Majesty the Queen," the best and the most popular Sovereign that ever sat upon this or any other throne.

May the Queen never want health, nor her subjects obedience.

"THE QUEEN."

GENTLEMEN,—The toast I have the honour to propose is "The Health of Her Majesty the Queen." It is the good fortune of the people of this country to be governed by a sovereign whose devotion to her subjects, whose love for the principles of the constitution, whose attachment to those principles, and whose many virtues and noble qualities, have rendered her dearly beloved by her subjects, and made her a bright example and endeared her to her people by the tenderest ties of loyalty and affection. Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in proposing "The Health of Her Majesty the Queen," with musical honours.

God save the Queen.—It is absurd for foreigners to ask whether we are a loyal people. Let them look at our Royal Arms, and they can always see V.R.

"THE QUEEN."

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I rise to give you the toast which in every gathering of Britons is ever first in the hearts and upon the lips of those who are assembled, and nowhere, I venture to say, more in the hearts and upon the lips of guests than within these walls at the present moment. I mean "The Health of Her Majesty the Queen." My Lords and Gentlemen, we, in common with the other subjects of Her Majesty, have viewed with loyal satisfaction and delight the increasing degree in which she has been permitted, as we trust, by augmented strength, to give to her subjects the comfort—I might almost have said the blessing—of her presence. We have also shared that satisfaction with which the people have been permitted, through the exercise of the pen of Her Majesty, to obtain an additional insight into a private life of which nothing more can be said, and nothing higher, than that it corresponds with her public life, and that the more it is seen the more it is admired. My Lords and Gentlemen, we all firmly join in this sentiment of fervent hope, that it may be granted to Her Majesty during what we hope shall be the long remainder of her reign, to see all the rolling years crowned with augmented blessings, for her people to witness the growth of wealth, of peace, of loyalty, of order, and of virtue in every class of the community, under the influence of her wise counsels and her noble example.

The Queen,—May she stand as the oak, and her enemies fall as the leaves.

"THE QUEEN."

GENTLEMEN,—I have a toast to propose which in an assembly of loyal men will, I am sure, be always acceptable. I shall not give it

in a formal manner, but I shall call upon you to respond to it from the heart, as I shall give it from the heart. Gentlemen, the principal merit of our British constitution is, that it is a system of harmony based upon conciliation—every man and every party conceding somewhat of its right, and much of what he believes he has a claim to, to the general good, while the Sovereign, standing above parties, herself of no party, because representing them all, stands over the whole united corporate body as its head. It has been the peculiar privilege of Her Majesty the Queen to have understood this her constitutional position. She has thoroughly understood it, and thoroughly done what I may call her duty. In this respect she merits the warmest affection, and the highest tributes any of her subjects can offer; but there is another point also in which there is a peculiar merit which we ought all to recognize. It has been well said, “As are the mothers, so are the sons of the nation;” and it may be said with equal truth, “As is the Queen, so are the mothers.” With regard to the Queen, influence does not proceed from the extremities to the centre, but radiates from the centre to the extremities of the social system. Society—that is, the entire social commonwealth—I may compare to the magnificent oak-tree, of which the successive growths lie in concentric circles round the heart. The core or heart of society is the Court, and the Queen is the centre of the Court. If the Queen is corrupt, the source of influence and moral virtue is arrested in the bud, as it were, and the life of society wanes and fades away. But where the Queen, as our Queen, is the model of all that woman should be, then her influence, like the sap rising within the trunk and from the core of the oak, permeates the whole tree, and circulates to the utmost extremities, and the influence of the Queen sitting upon the throne is felt, I may say, by every mother in every cottage throughout her dominions. It has been the merit of most of our British queens to fulfil this great duty of setting the example of domestic virtue to her subjects, but none have excelled Queen Victoria. Wherever she sets her foot abroad, all express the same wish, because all look upon her not only as a great Queen, but also as a great and good woman. Wherever she goes that is her character, and it is one of the highest points for which we can respect her. Gentlemen, I beg to give you “The Queen,” the mother of her people—God bless her!

Health to the Queen, prosperity to the people, and may the Ministry direct their endeavours to the public good, rather than engage in party distinctions.

“THE QUEEN.”

GENTLEMEN,—I have waited until I saw your glasses charged, to propose to you the first toast of the evening.

As loyal Englishmen we hail with delight every festive gathering that affords us the opportunity of doing honour to that noble Lady who has ruled, and does rule, these realms with so much wisdom and

justice, and who, from her domestic virtues and blameless life, has endeared herself alike to all owning her sway.

Gentlemen, more words would be superfluous, I therefore at once give you "The Queen."

"The Queen,"—And may true Britons never be without her likeness in their pockets.

"THE QUEEN."

MR. VICE AND GENTLEMEN,—Looking at the happy faces around me, I think I may safely aver that the toast I am about to propose will meet with general approbation. Custom has now so sanctioned the course I adopt, that for a meeting of Englishmen to take place for the purposes of social enjoyment, without first drinking the Queen's health, would be strange indeed. I therefore ask you at once to charge your glasses, and join me in a bumper toast, "To Her Majesty the Queen."

May the Queen and her subjects reign in each other's hearts by love.

Toast.—By the Chairman or the Vice-Chair.

"THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES."

GENTLEMEN,—The next toast on the programme of the day is one which I am sure you, as Englishmen, will do honour to—a toast that forms a natural sequence to the one you have just drunk with so much enthusiasm. "The Prince and Princess of Wales" will, I am sure, meet at your hands that hearty response which always follows the loyal toasts offered at all entertainments and social gatherings of a kindred character to this.

The Prince and Princess of Wales; and may they live long and be happy.

GENTLEMEN,—The Prince of Wales is the worthy son of a worthy father—"Albert the Good." The young and amiable Princess of Wales has won for herself the lasting respect of all classes of the English nation, and may they both long continue to enjoy every happiness, and the well-merited respect of all Englishmen.

Prosperity; and may it ever be the rising-sun of England.

GENTLEMEN,—May the day be long distant when, in the common course of nature, the Prince will be called upon to reign over us.

But the day, come it will and come it must, when his worthy and royal Mother will be removed from us, and the Prince of Wales will be then the King of "our tight little Island." May he and his Princess rule as well and as wisely as the Queen Her Most Gracious Majesty and her ever lamented royal partner, the late Prince Albert.

May the future King of England be as virtuous as his Father.

GENTLEMEN,—My duty now is to propose for the next toast the health of a Royal Prince and Princess, standing next in succession to the Crown. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, having been born amongst us, assumes, and rightly so, the position of the first gentleman in England; and who is there that has watched his career that dare say he does not nobly sustain that character? What Englishman is there whose heart does not warm at the mention of Royal Edward's name? As heir apparent he deserves the strong and lasting love characteristic of the English. Reared under the careful guidance of a wise and enlightened Prince—his noble Father—he grew into manhood, and with him grew all the graces that adorn humanity; and though the day may be long distant ere he will be called on to fill his royal Mother's place on the throne of England, we all know that, come when it may, our future King will carry with him all the love and duty of his subjects.

To the Royal Lady the Princess of Wales, born of a long line of kings, and heiress of their virtues, the loved and loving wife of Prince Edward, and mother of his children, sharing with her husband the affection of all true Englishmen, we wish long life and happiness. And now, gentlemen, a bumper toast to their "Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales."

The Prince and Princess of Wales; and when Providence in the course of nature shall place them on the throne, may their minds be found imbued with those liberal sentiments calculated to make the nation happy.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE QUEEN, THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES, AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY."

GENTLEMEN,—As loyal and dutiful Englishmen, the first toast of the day will be—"Our Queen, Her Most Gracious Majesty, the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family;" and it affords me a great deal of pleasure in proposing the same for your consideration, well knowing how congenial that toast is to the feelings of Englishmen.

Britons in Unity, and Unity in Britain.

GENTLEMEN,—Little need be said by me in respect to the toast I have the honour to propose to you; the very many virtues possessed by her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, and the popularity and general esteem in which the Prince and Princess of Wales are held by all loyal and dutiful Englishmen being well known to you all; and, with regard to the rest of the Royal Family, you are all conversant with the virtues of our Queen's Happy Family. The Prince has always taken a deep interest in the Volunteer movement; and I only regret that his Royal Highness is not present upon this occasion. Had he been here, he would have been highly gratified by the sight which he would have seen, and by the efficient manner in which the ——— Volunteers went through the various evolutions they were called on to perform by Captain ———.

Britain; may the land of our nativity be ever the abode of freedom,
and the birthplace of heroes.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour now to propose "The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family." The Prince of Wales, gentlemen, has ever shown himself worthy of the exalted position to which he has been raised by Divine Providence. He has shown himself worthy of being the son of our excellent Queen, Victoria, and of the lamented Prince, his father. Gentlemen, allied to the Prince is the graceful, beautiful, and good Princess Alexandra, and we may say with the Poet Laureate,—

" Saxons, and Normans, and Danes are we,
But all of us Danes in our welcome to thee."

From the moment that the Danish Princess set her foot upon English land she became an Englishwoman, and one of the most graceful and beautiful women of our land. Like the morning star, glittering full of life and beauty, she illumines the society in which she moves, elevating and making it more graceful than it was before. Gentlemen, we have also amongst our Royal Family our "Sailor Prince," and when the news came to England of that dastardly attempt on His Royal Highness's life, the indignation in England was only equalled by the indignation of the colonies, where His Royal Highness had won the hearts of all. His Royal Highness has been the link between the mother country and the colonies, and these colonies are as loyal, I believe, to England as England herself. I have the honour, gentlemen, to propose to you "The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family."

Here's a health unto Her Majesty,
Confusion to her enemies,
And he that will not pledge her health,
I wish him neither wit nor wealth,
Nor yet a rope to hang himself.

*Toast.—By the Chairman.***"THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AND THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY."**

GENTLEMEN,—I have now the honour to propose that you drink the health of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. By the suavity of his manners, by devotion to the best interests of the people, and by attachment to the institutions of the country, His Royal Highness has won the affections of his fellow-countrymen. Join me, then, gentlemen, as I propose to you "The Health of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family."

England for ever,—the land, boys, we live in.

GENTLEMEN,—I have now to propose to you to drink the health of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family. We can wish nothing more for the Prince of Wales than that he may be enabled—and, indeed, it is no slight matter—to follow in the future the example of his illustrious parent. At this moment, with respect to the Princess of Wales, if the echo of our voices could reach the Royal ears, I am sure we should wish to convey our cordial and heartfelt congratulations on that recovery of strength which has again brought into the social circles that form of so much grace, beauty, and goodness.

"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever."

GENTLEMEN,—The next toast I have the honour to bring before you is that of "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the other members of the Royal Family." The more we know of our Royal family the more we respect and love them; and I believe I may safely say of the Prince and Princess of Wales, that the one is a thorough English gentleman and the other a thorough English lady. The Princess of Wales, since the first moment she came to reside in this country, has been growing more and more popular every day; and the Prince, unlike some members of his family in past times, does not shut himself in palaces and in gilded halls, but goes about, and sees his future subjects, and learns to know them and to love them. I give you "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the other members of the Royal Family."

The Prince and Princess of Wales: may they be as much distinguished for their virtues as their high birth.

GENTLEMEN,—The second upon my list of toasts is one which I shall have great pleasure in giving. It is "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the other Members of the Royal Family."

Gentlemen, among the many great blessings which Divine Providence has showered upon this country during the last fifty years, I know of none greater than that which directed our Queen's choice to her consort Prince Albert. He was a man of great public views and excellent private virtues; he thoroughly understood the position which the Queen should hold in this country, and he acted as a most wise adviser and as a firm arm of support to her during his life. His son, the Prince of Wales, so far as we can at present see, promises to follow his father's example and to inherit his mother's virtues. He has given a pledge to us, I may say, in the wise choice of the Princess Alexandra as his wife, a lady whose name I rejoice to hear provokes that expression of applause, for she is indeed a woman who in grace of person and in character is well suited to be the mate of the heir to the British empire. The junior members of the family directly descended from the Sovereign are full of promise. There is also the Duke of Cambridge, the last representative in these realms of the ancient and illustrious house of Guelph, who presides over the army, and the Princess Mary of England, now Princess Mary of Teck, who will, I hope, long continue to grace the society of England, which so admires and loves her. Gentlemen, I beg to give you "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family."

Great Britain's rising stars—the Prince and Princess of Wales.

GENTLEMEN,—I have great pleasure in proposing the next toast, and I am sure it will be as warmly received as the previous one. It is "The health of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family." The brethren of this Lodge must know, as well as me, from the newspapers, how very energetic and useful the Prince of Wales has been lately in opening public halls, laying foundation-stones, and doing everything that he can to promote the comfort of the people and the welfare of the nation. It has been said, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown;" but I hope that will never be applied to him who at some distant day—may it be very distant!—will be England's King.

"THE REST OF THE ROYAL FAMILY."

MR. VICE AND GENTLEMEN,—A hint has just been given me to "get on;" and as I see many singing faces around me, whose "souls are in arms, and eager for the fray," I think it will be the better course to couple the remaining branches of the Royal Family together in one toast, as "The rest of the Royal Family—God bless them!"

GENTLEMEN,—There are other members of our Royal Family, not standing so prominently forward as the objects of my last toast,

but none the less deserving of our best love and wishes; but as time is of import to us, and we have much to get through, I hope I shall not be declared disloyal if I connect them altogether under one head, as "The remaining branches of the Royal Family—long life to them!"

A lasting cement to all contending powers.

Speech of the Mayor of Portsmouth at the Visit of the French Fleet, Sept. 1, 1865.

GENTLEMEN,—I rise to ask your kind attention while I give you the first toast—a toast which I shall have the honour of giving you for the first time in my life; and I can say, without any hesitation, it affords me greater pleasure than any other I shall have the honour of giving you, for reasons I shall express to you in a few words. The toast is—"The Health of the Emperor of the French." Gentlemen, I knew the enthusiasm and warmth with which the mention of that toast would be received; but before I give it you in the usual terms, I desire first to express to you the gratification with which we have received the visit of the French fleet to these shores. Gentlemen, it marks an era in the history of our country; and I do not hesitate to say that those feelings have been gradually growing and increasing, and have, by these mutual visits on both sides of the Channel, tended to strengthen and cement that kindly and brotherly feeling which exists between us. It is not very long ago that the Emperor said, at Bordeaux, that "the Empire is peace;" and when he has permitted those interchanges of good feeling and these visits that have recently taken place, it is one of the many proofs we have received of his loyalty to the British nation. Gentlemen, that magnificent fleet we see assembled at Spithead indicates something more than an every-day occurrence: it indicates the warmth of that friendship which exists between the two countries; it shows that whereas in times past we were at enmity with each other, now we are in the warmest bonds of friendship. Gentlemen, when I passed through the fleet at Spithead the day before yesterday, and tendered my welcome on the part of the inhabitants of the port to the admirals and officers of the French fleet, I confess I was struck with the magnitude of the vessels and the immense power they possessed. That fleet has assembled there not even in defence, nor in defiance; but it is simply there, as I understand, to show to the world at large its feelings of peace. I feel I am not equal to the occasion; I feel that I cannot express, either on behalf of the inhabitants of the town or the people at large, the pleasure they feel at being honoured by the visit on this occasion. Gentlemen, we are bound to each other by ties of mutual interest—ties not to be forgotten as a matter of business; but we are bound together by the still greater and stronger tie of common loyalty and brotherhood, and a desire to promote civilization and liberty throughout the world. Gentlemen, officers of the French fleet, I

bid you welcome to Portsmouth, I bid you welcome to the shores of England; and I can only say that I am but feebly expressing the pleasure and joy with which we receive you on these shores. I dare not trust myself to say more on this occasion. I have feebly attempted to emulate the magnificent reception with which our officers and fleet were greeted at Cherbourg and Brest; and, if we cannot give you the same magnificent reception, we can offer you equally warm hearts, and as cordially wish you God speed. Long may this cordiality continue; and, strong as our arms have been when at enmity with each other, surely they can be equally strong in the grasp of friendship. I am sorry I am not capable of expressing these sentiments in the French language, but I offer them from my heart, and on behalf of the English people. Gentlemen, I call on you to drink "The Health of the Emperor."

Speech by the Mayor of Portsmouth in proposing the Health of the Queen on the occasion of the Visit of the French Fleet at Portsmouth, Sept. 1, 1865.

GENTLEMEN,—I now have to give you a toast to which I am somewhat more accustomed, and the mere mention of which will, I am sure, be sufficient to raise, not only in the hearts of all Englishmen, but of all Frenchmen, the warmest enthusiasm. I believe you will receive the next toast with the same cordiality and the same warmth as you have received the last, because it relates to the Sovereign of our country, "Her Majesty the Queen." There cannot be a doubt that Her Most Gracious Majesty views with the greatest pleasure these visits and intercommunications, and that she rejoices to see the subjects of her nation receive with friendship those of the Emperor. In England, the mere mention of the name of the Queen is sufficient to arouse our warmest enthusiasm. It is perfectly unnecessary and superfluous to enlarge on the eminent advantages we enjoy as a people under the benign reign and influence of her to whom we are indebted for that noble example she sets in every position she fills, whether as Queen, mother, or ordinary member of society. With Her Majesty's name I propose to couple "The Health of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family." May the day be far off when the Prince of Wales may reign as King of England; but when the day arrives when he shall be called on to fill the position his mother so magnificently fills, then may the hopes and prayers of England ascend to Heaven that he may reign over us with the same purity and excellence, and set us the same example, as Her Majesty! This is a toast which I know will be commended to your heartiest consideration. It needs no recommendation from me; the mere mention of it is sufficient to commend it to your heartiest reception.

THE ARMY AND NAVY,
COUPLED WITH
THE VOLUNTEERS, MILITIA, AND NAVAL RESERVE

TOASTS—NAVAL AND MILITARY.

Toast.—“THE ARMY.”—By the Chairman.

GENTLEMEN,—My next toast in routine is “The Army”—that phalanx of braves to whom in a great measure we owe the liberties we now enjoy. No man can over-estimate the value of such an army as England is proud to possess. No man can read the past history of England without being astonished at the mighty deeds of her warriors. No Englishman can hear them mentioned without feeling his heart leap with gratitude to God who has so blessed his country. To mention names, when the roll of our heroes is almost endless, would be invidious; to mention acts of heroism and indomitable bravery would be equally so, for their name is legion. I must content myself, then, by asking you, Mr. Vice and Gentlemen, to join me in a bumper toast to that powerful branch of the service—“The Army.”

The British Army : may its distinguishing characteristics always be, fortitude in the hour of disaster, courage in the hour of danger, and mercy in the hour of victory.

“THE NAVY.”

GENTLEMEN,—I shall now propose to you for your next toast, “The Navy.” I have lost no time in this, because as it has long been a moot point as to which branch of the service preference should be given, I hold that at least but little time should elapse between these two very important toasts. Do you wish me to say anything to you on behalf of our navy,—shall I breathe forth to you the names of her mighty heroes to inspire your zeal,—can I elicit your applause by whispering to you of Rooke, Blake, Hood, Howe, St. Vincent, Duncan, Nelson, Collingwood, Exmouth, Codrington,

Cochrane, and Napier? No, I see by the light flashing from each eye as the roll of our naval heroes is called, England wants no reminder of the deep debt she owes her valiant sons, and no spur to do honour to their memory as often as occasion shall serve. Many changes have taken place of late years in the construction of ships; instead of "our wooden walls" we shall have to speak in future of "our iron-sides." But whether our ships are made of wood or iron, England's navy, when called upon to protect our native shores, will ever be found to consist of "hearts of oak." However you may alter the material for building ships, to meet the exigencies of the times, you cannot alter the material of our plucky English seamen, that will ever remain the true "Britannia metal," yet be found very difficult to *polish*! So, gentlemen, rise, and join me in a bumper toast, "The Navy of England."

The tar that sticks like pitch to his duty.

"THE ARMY, NAVY, AND VOLUNTEERS."

GENTLEMEN,—It is now my agreeable duty to propose "The healths of our brave defenders, the Army and the Navy," those two great services to which this country is so deeply indebted. The courage and chivalry of the army and navy are matters of history, and I am sure that I speak the sentiments of the British people when I say they have earned our everlasting gratitude. I am happy to be able to associate with this toast a body of modern times, a very useful and deservedly respected body—I speak of the Volunteers. Gentlemen, we are very proud of the Volunteers. They consist of the flower of our youth—men who, regardless of time and expense, employ their leisure hours, not frivolously, but intellectually, in preparing themselves, in case of need, to defend the honour and glory of Old England. I am happy on this occasion to associate the toast with the name of a gentleman whom I have long known in another field—I mean Mr. ———. If he is as good a soldier as he is a man of business, the service was never more efficiently represented.

GENTLEMEN,—An honour has been conferred on me, in allowing me to introduce the next toast; for that honour I intend to make the only return in my power, and that is to be brief. Brevity in after-dinner speeches is not only the soul of wit, but is the soul, in my mind, of all other social virtues. The toast which I am about to introduce is always placed prominently on the list, which proves how dearly the subject of it is held in the hearts of the people of this great country. As good wine needs no bush, a good cause needs little talking, and the army, navy, and volunteers of this country can stand their ground without being bespattered by after-dinner praise. It would be obtrusive on such an occasion, and be in exceedingly bad taste, especially when the olive-branch, and

not the sword, is the theme of the day, if I were to recapitulate or recount the gallant deeds of prowess and the brilliant feats of arms performed by our glorious army and navy. Those deeds and exploits are written in the records of England's history, and their glories are not only known to all the world, but are embalmed in the hearts of our grateful countrymen. Therefore, gentlemen, join with me, without further preface or remarks, in "The Army, Navy, and the British Volunteers."

GENTLEMEN,—I have now to propose to you that you should drink to the Army, Navy, and Volunteers. Gentlemen, it seems hardly necessary to say anything in commendation of services which have distinguished themselves so highly as these services have done. As respects the Army, the first thing that naturally occurs to every one present is the marvellous success of the expedition which has just returned from ———. Every element of merit seems to have been concentrated in the conception and in the carrying out of that expedition; for, in the first place, never were means adapted to an end with more complete wisdom, and crowned with more absolute success, than on that occasion: and probably we saw in it war directed to its legitimate object, which is the vindication of right, without the infliction of wrong upon any individuals; but what most struck other nations, perhaps, was the result—the perfect unselfishness of the expedition, the return without levying a single tribute on the country, or attempting to retain a single inch of soil within it. The army of ——— have returned crowned with laurels which, I may say, were not reaped with blood. The feats of the Navy are known in every quarter of the globe, and they are not only actively, but passively known in every quarter of the empire. As to the Volunteers, I may say, that when we were threatened with an invasion from abroad the British lion was stirred up, that an Army of Volunteers sprang from the soil, who since have given every pledge of being able to defend it should occasion demand their services. I beg to propose "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers of Great Britain."

MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—I have now the pleasing duty of asking you to drink the toast of "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers." My Lords, in common with my countrymen, I sincerely and earnestly hope that the time is fast approaching when the peace of Europe will be established on a solid and lasting basis. We, my Lords, are not, strictly speaking, a military nation; but, addressing this assembly in the presence of ——— and ———, I hope I may be permitted to express what I believe to be the sentiment and feeling of the people of England—that these two glorious branches of the service may ever be maintained in an entire state of efficiency. My Lords, we present this singular anomaly, that whereas the science of peace is struggling to devise means to promote life, the science of war is endeavouring to invent the most deadly machines by which life can be destroyed. I have the greatest

pleasure in proposing "The Health of the Army, the Navy, and the Volunteers." With the Army I associate the name of ———, with the Navy that of ———, and with the Volunteers that of ———.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE ARMY AND NAVY, COUPLED WITH THE VOLUNTEERS."

GENTLEMEN,—I have the pleasure to propose to you "The Army and Navy." This is a toast always well received by Englishmen, and I have now an addition to make to that time-honoured toast, viz. "The Volunteers." I pride myself in having taken an active part when the Volunteers were first established; and I believe they possess the hands and hearts that would always make England respected. As there is no member of either the Army or Navy present, I will couple with the toast a gentleman who is a great supporter of the Volunteers, and one who has taken every necessary step to make himself acquainted with the duties of a Volunteer and an officer, viz. Mr. ———.

"Be Britain still to Britain true,
Among ourselves united;
For never but by British hands
Maun British wrangs be righted."

"THE NAVY, COUPLED WITH ITS VOLUNTEER RESERVE."

GENTLEMEN,—As a matter of routine, it is customary, after the Army has been toasted, to toast the Navy, but, with your leave, I will supplement it with the Naval Reserve.

Firstly, because it will enable us to gain time, and secondly, because the reserve force being drawn chiefly from our mercantile marine, is so closely a twin sister, that I do not think the most fastidious *salt of the Line* would find fault with this arrangement.

Our toast, then, shall be "The Navy and its Volunteer Reserve."

We all know the value our Navy is to us, and how our sea-girt isle, under the ægis of such a force, laughs at invasion. Now though, perhaps, the days of our Wooden Walls are numbered, and the poetry that stirred our seamen of old is vanishing from view, still the lion hearts remain to tread the decks, and "guard from foes our native land." Long may it be ere our Naval Reserve is called out for active service; still, should it come, England will find every man "will do his duty," whether he be of the Royal Navy or the Reserve, and the flag that has braved a thousand years shall still remain unfurled, defiant alike of the battle and the breeze. Gentlemen, "The Royal Navy and its Volunteer Reserve."

The British Navy—the world's check-string.

"THE ARMY, COUPLED WITH THE VOLUNTEERS."

GENTLEMEN,—I rise now with great pleasure to propose "The Army, coupled with the Volunteers." First, to that brave and glorious Army of England, from whose heroic deeds have sprung the high and distinguished position this country holds amongst the nations of the earth,—to that Army which, at all times and seasons in the hour of England's peril, has poured out its blood like water for the honour and safety of the country,—to that Army, I say, our thanks are firstly due, not only for past, but for present and future services, seeing that their duty is a constant one, and wherever danger is, there will they be to confront it.

Secondly, our thanks are due to our Volunteers as an auxiliary to that Army we owe so much to, and who, I am sure, in case of need, will prove worthy the name they bear, and able comrades of their brethren of the line. When, gentlemen, we see so noble, so devoted a band straining their greatest energies to acquire mastery of their weapons; when we witness the result of these efforts, as shown by the returns from the competitive meetings of the Volunteers, whether the piece be the rifle or the "loud-mouthed cannon," we can but rejoice and say, Happy is the country that can boast such sons!

Gentlemen, "The Army, coupled with the Volunteers."

"It is sweet and glorious to die for one's country."

RESPONSES.

Response.—"THE ARMY."

GENTLEMEN,—I have again the good fortune to respond for the Army, which I have had on several previous occasions in this room. I have often spoken on military exploits; but far more peaceful and in many respects more agreeable, times have come about, and whatever conduces to the happiness and prosperity of this country must always be most acceptable to the service to which I belong. It is not our wish to be engaged in wars; on the contrary, it is our business to try and avert the calamities of war; and if we can succeed in that respect, I flatter myself we perform our duty successfully, and are as much entitled to the good opinion of our countrymen as if we performed our duty gallantly in the field of battle. But, besides this, I trust I am not mistaken in supposing the inhabitants of the town of ——— have a real affection for peace, which can only be equalled by the horror they have for war. I am happy to find that the Army is in no respect reduced, either in number or efficiency; and I feel persuaded that, while they have on this and many other occasions rested with their peaceful arms so

agreeably, they will be, on war's alarms, prepared to grasp rifle and bayonet, and do good service to their country, should the hour of need arrive. But I hope it will be the good fortune of the Army to do, as on this occasion, all their fighting with no other weapon than a good Sheffield-made knife and fork, with nothing but plates laden with the good things of this life to "cut at." I sincerely hope we may often have the honour of meeting in this room with the country, as at present, at peace. On behalf of the Army I thank you all.

Soldiers are perfect devils in their way;
When once they're raised, they're cursed hard to lay.

May the brave soldier who never turned his back to the enemy,
never have a friend to turn his back to him.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I rise to respond to the call with which you have honoured me, and to thank you and the company for the compliment which has been paid to the British Army. I am quite sure that there is not an officer or soldier in the British Army who would not feel proud of the language which you have on this occasion been pleased to use, and which must be most gratifying to those men who are always ready to set forth in defence of their country. You have alluded in most just terms to the late expedition to ———. That expedition must, I think, be regarded as one of the most triumphant recorded in the annals of any country. That extraordinary expedition to ———, extraordinary in its details, extraordinary in its complete success—has been remarkable for many things; but signally, and above all else, it has been remarkable for the wisdom, the foresight, and the soldier-like ability with which our troops were commanded; it is also remarkable for the discipline, the steadiness, the bravery, and the untarnished good conduct of the men who accomplished it. I feel sure, therefore, that I am expressing the feeling of every one who hears me, when I say, that long years have passed away since we, any of us, can remember a period when the British Army was more entitled than it is now to the respect, the gratitude, and the good feeling of their countrymen. We feel it one of our first and most important duties to maintain our national defences and our military power; we are bound at the same time to bear in mind the well-known fact, that the Army of England is, from causes often repeated and well understood, one of the most costly armies in Europe, and that while we are bound to maintain its efficiency and its power, it is one of our first duties to endeavour to do so without exaggerated estimates, and with every possible economy, so that we may accomplish that great national object which is entrusted to us, without imposing too heavy a burden upon the people.

May the British soldier never turn his bayonet against his own
countrymen.

May the soldier never fall a sacrifice but to glory.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to acknowledge the toast on behalf of the Army, to which service I have the honour to belong. This city, in bygone times, has been always regarded as standing in the forefront of our national defences; and I can but regret that your noble Chairman had not been brought up as a soldier. What an able general the country has lost through his not adopting the army as a profession! No one would have shown so much justice and firmness in the consideration of military affairs as the noble Chairman, particularly in regard to that branch of the service to which his energies and talent would have so appropriately adapted him. But

A lucky chance, that oft decides the fate
Of mighty monarchs,

has ruled it otherwise. We must, therefore, be content; and as we cannot meet him in the field or the camp, we shall at all times be happy to meet him in the grove—the Grove of Peace! With regard to the British Army, it may be said now to be at peace with all the world. But we cannot tell how long it may continue to be so; but should the contingency of war befall us, I feel sure that the Government would have a tower of strength in the Army as a present constituted—a tower of strength far surpassing the tower of masonry which line the coast, however valuable these might be. The British soldier has lost none of the courage for which he has ever been famed, and England has cause to be proud of her Army. I return my most sincere thanks for the manner in which you have done honour to the toast.

'Tis the soldiers' life
To have their balmy slumbers wak'd with strife.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to rise to acknowledge, with thanks, the toast of "The Army," and I am glad to find that at all meetings of Englishmen, the services of the British soldier are thoroughly appreciated. This causes him to be zealous in his duties, and to look lightly upon the fatigue and hardships of foreign service. The Army of England, I believe, was never in a more efficient state than at the present time; and as I have ever been of opinion that the best way to be at peace is to be prepared for war, I hope and trust that our Government will ever maintain the British Army in sufficient numbers and discipline to prevent a possibility of the latter.

Peace rules the day, where reason rules the mind;
and our illustrious poet, John Milton, has written,—

Peace hath her victories
No less renown'd than war.

I trust that we shall remain at peace; but should the dire necessity for war spring up, the British soldier will be found ever ready and willing to do his duty to his Queen and country. But,—

War's a game which, were their subjects wise,
Kings should not play at.

Thanking you for the kind and enthusiastic manner in which you

have proposed "The Army," I will say, may all the battles fought in liberty's cause be repaid with freedom and peace; for

It is most meet we arm us 'gainst the foe;
For peace itself should not so dull a kingdom,
But that defences, musters, preparations,
Should be maintain'd, assembled, and collected,
As were a war in expectation."

May the arms borne by a soldier never be used in a bad cause.

Response.—"THE NAVY."

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour, on behalf of "The Navy," to respond to that toast; and I can say with confidence that never was the Navy of England in a more satisfactory state than at the present moment. God grant that it may never be called on to meet the foe; but it certainly has never been better prepared to do so than now. The vast sums cheerfully voted for the support of the Navy are, I believe, now properly and judiciously expended; and a proof was given at the late naval review that the Government has not been neglectful in providing for the defence of the country. As regards sailors, I can also assure you that the Admiralty have no difficulty in manning our fleets. In conclusion, I cannot agree with Mr. ———, that our excellent Chairman ought to have been brought up a soldier. I think that, judging from the great knowledge and experience which the worthy gentleman displayed in all that related to naval matters, he would have made a first-rate sailor.

May our officers and tars be valiant and brave,
And our admirals loyal and true;
May they die by their guns, Britain's rights to maintain,
And fight for the honour of British true blue.

GENTLEMEN,—In returning thanks for "The Navy," I have to observe that when comparisons were made between the ships of England and those of France, a great deal was said about the slowness which England exhibited in bringing her Navy forward. That was in reference to the new iron-cased vessels; but it should be remembered that these are only experimental ships, and have not yet been proved or tried. They might be all very well, but they might prove like the knights of old, who, when cased in armour, and were once knocked down, could not get up again. France never did beat England in ships—ours always were superior to theirs; our officers and men of other days could always compete with theirs; and it is not for those of the present day to say what they could do with their present Navy, but I hope the country will never have cause to be ashamed of it.

Our foes well tarred, and our tars well feathered.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I rise to thank you most sincerely for the compliment paid to the naval service, and to state my conviction that it must always prove gratifying and acceptable to the brave men who constitute that service to receive the assurances that may be conveyed by such gatherings as the present, of continued confidence in that high character and efficiency which have for many generations distinguished that service. We have been told—the public has been told—that great extravagance exists in our dockyards—that the large sums so liberally voted by Parliament have been wastefully expended. On that statement I express no opinion,—I should not be justified in expressing any opinion on the truth or otherwise of this charge ; but I do say I hold it to be one of the first, the highest, and most important duties of any man entrusted with the administration of the Navy of England to take care that the sums so liberally voted by Parliament for the purposes of our Navy are properly expended, and that they are laid out with the utmost regard to vigilance and scrupulous economy. Let me add, that the necessity for scrupulous economy in the expenditure of these large votes is the more necessary, because, I am sorry to be obliged to admit, that it will be absolutely impossible for England to maintain her place as the greatest maritime power of the world without an immense expenditure. You, my Lord ———, in your remarks introducing the toast, have referred to the science of war. Since I last had the honour of acknowledging in this room the toast of “The Navy,” several years have passed away. During that period the science of war has led to great and extensive changes, not only in the construction of our ships, but even more so, if possible, in the construction of the guns by which those ships are armed. The tendency of all those changes has been towards expense. I hope most earnestly your Lordship is correct in your anticipation that, having regard to the present state of affairs, it is only reasonable to look for a long continuance of peace. But England is bound to protect her extended empire and her vast commerce. To effect this we must have a squadron in almost every part of the world ; and so long as the creation of the Navy is confined within prudence and good judgment, I do not believe that either Parliament or the people of this country will be unwilling to contribute *whatever* sums may be necessary to effect that great national object.

British Navy : may it ever sail on a sea of glory, and, wafted by the gales of prosperity, guided by the compass of honour, enter the port of victory.

All hearty messmates ; and may they never want a mess or a mate.

Britain's pride and the world's wonder—her Navy.

Commerce and trade always protected,
And British seamen never neglected.

England's castles—her men-of-war.

England—the anchor of hope of the world.

Good ships, fair winds, and brave seamen.

Response.—"THE ARMY, NAVY, AND VOLUNTEERS."

GENTLEMEN,—It seems to have been the custom almost invariably on occasions of this sort for the person on whom devolves the task of responding to this toast, to preface his remarks by stating that he wished it had fallen into worthier hands—unaccustomed as he was to public speaking. This is the usual form, and I do not mean to depart from the custom of the country in like cases; but I feel certain all of you will acquit me of insincerity when I state that the person on whom should have fallen the task of responding to this toast, and whose place I so unworthily fill, is ———. His absence on this occasion is deeply deplored by all present, so popular is he everywhere; but his absence is unavoidable. You all know that devotion to the public service is the mainspring of his conduct through life, and on this occasion he has been telegraphed for on business of great importance, and therefore pleasure had to give way to duty. I am authorized to state to you that he feels his absence on this occasion a deep mortification, for, independent of the pleasure he would have felt on an occasion of this sort, he would also have had a soldier's pride in seeing his ———, in whose honour we are now assembled, entering that profession and joining that regiment in which he himself had passed the better part of his life. Having thus disposed of the preface in a manner which I think must be satisfactory to all present, I may say, with regard to the toast, *tria juncta in una*. Though I am sorry we have no representative of the Navy, yet we have able representatives on all sides of the Volunteers, and therefore I shall leave to them the task of responding; though I wish to say, when speaking for the three joined in one, that the three services are so blended together now, that one might use the language of the gentleman asked to respond to "The Ladies," "The ladies, bless you, they speak for themselves." I need say no more, *brevis esse labro obscurus fio*, for the deeds of the Army, Navy, and Volunteers speak for themselves. I need not ransack the pages of history, but will only advert to that very recent act—the wonderful campaign in ———. I need not go further, and can only add, when you see youngsters entering that profession whilst they might live in luxurious idleness at home, that the gallantry of our British youths saves us from those messes which we are always going to tumble into. I return you my hearty thanks on behalf of the Army, Navy, and Volunteers.

All those who have fought and bled for Great Britain.

Response.—"THE ARMY AND MILITIA."

GENTLEMEN,—You have been good enough to call upon me to return thanks on the part of the Army. I need hardly say that I have the greatest pleasure in doing so, although I feel that there are present here to-night many honourable and gallant friends whose distinguished services would fully entitle them to respond to the

compliment just paid to our profession. I have also to return thanks on behalf of the Royal Militia—a service the importance and merits of which are appreciated, and have been daily acknowledged. Speaking both for the Army and the Militia, I beg leave to return thanks for the compliment paid to the gallant men in these services who, in this country, and I believe in this country alone, have voluntarily undertaken to discharge those duties which do so much credit to themselves, and have obtained for them the approbation of their fellow-citizens. Better proof of the truth of this statement cannot be given than by the manner in which this toast has been received; and I am sure it will be a matter of the greatest gratification to every member of both the Army and the Militia to know that so cordial a reception has been accorded to the sentiment. The British Army has obtained many glorious victories, but these great victories have been obtained, not by superiority in point of courage, not by superiority in point of discipline, not by superiority in point of physical power, but they have been won entirely by the superior organization, the superior equipment, and the superior arms. This only confirms the opinion I have always entertained and often expressed, that it is the duty of this country in times of profound peace, and for the purpose of preserving that peace—for which no person is more anxious than myself—to maintain the Army of this country in a state of complete efficiency; and I am happy to be able to state that, in consequence of the exertions made by those in the office—I speak on the authority of reports received from military officers attached to the armies recently engaged—that the British Army, when the British soldier is armed with the breechloader, will be equal in equipment and in arms to any army in the world, as in point of discipline and courage it is inferior to none. I think, therefore, I may express my congratulations on the efficiency of the Army and Militia, in whose name I beg again to thank you.

Response.—By a Volunteer Officer.

GENTLEMEN,—I have great pleasure in responding to the toast on behalf of the branch of the service to which I and several gentlemen in this room have the honour to belong. Though we cannot tell of past deeds of heroism, or refer to banners stained with blood, we can unfold to you the flag which, in my opinion, has raised this country in the esteem of Europe, and has rendered every household free and independent. I believe this Volunteer movement will exercise, and has exercised, an influence over the people of this country which will make us at all times a source of terror to our enemies, and a source of reliance to our friends at home. I believe that now through the ranks of the Volunteer Army there have passed men who in three months would be capable of bearing arms to the extent of nearly a million, and I believe every man when called upon would do his duty. Gentlemen, on behalf of the Volunteers and my brother officers, I beg to thank you.

Response.—“THE VOLUNTEERS.”

GENTLEMEN,—I rise to return thanks for the Volunteers. I have the honour to command a Volunteer regiment which has been considerably more than two centuries in existence, whose headquarters are within a mile of the Mansion House, and whose history is intimately associated with that of the City of London. The Hon. Artillery Company is the father of all the Volunteers; but I am bound to admit that the rising generation of Volunteers have come forward in a most surprising manner.— years ago no person would have dreamt of predicting that in 18— the toast of “The Volunteers” would be incorporated with that of “The Army and Navy.” Such, however, is the case; and I must say that it gives the Volunteers the greatest possible pleasure to be associated with the glorious standing toast of “The Army and Navy.”

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to return thanks, and at the same time to express my regret that none of our officers are present to do so. In reference to the Volunteers, the Chairman has so ably expressed the feelings which animated them, that little, very little, is left for me to say on the subject. We do not enter the service in a spirit of bravado, or with a desire to see active service. No; the great ability of the movement has arisen from the demonstration that, should necessity arise, we shall be ready to stand forward for the protection of our country—our “snug little island”—for,

Since Freedom and Neptune have hitherto kept tune
In each saying, “This shall be my land;”
Should the “Army of England,” or all it could bring, land,
We’d show ’em some play for the island;
We’d fight for our right to the island;
We’d give them enough of the island;
Invaders should just bite once at the dust,
But not a bit more of the island.

Gentlemen, on behalf of the Volunteers in general, and the —th of ——— in particular, I return you my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the enthusiastic manner in which you have responded to the call of your Chairman to drink to their healths.

GENTLEMEN,—With regard to the patriotic Volunteers, I feel sure that, should their services be required, they will not be wanting in that manly courage which characterizes the regular army. But I hope that their battles will be confined, as hitherto, to the heights around Brighton, Portsmouth, or Dover. On behalf of the Volunteers, I thank you.

Response.—"THE VOLUNTEERS."

GENTLEMEN,—I have to return my best thanks on the part of the Volunteers for the honour you have done them in drinking their health on this great occasion. Now, as a Volunteer, I do not represent them at all as a political body. I am here simply as an individual like yourselves. Although, on a recent occasion, it was represented that I went about as a recruiting sergeant to recruit for the 1st ———, I may say that it is nothing of the kind. I don't mix volunteering up with politics, but, if I can get a recruit, I certainly am ready for business, and nothing would please me more than to raise a second battalion of Volunteers in ———, and to have our distinguished guest its honorary colonel. I am here to promote the ——— cause, and I am delighted to see so many persons assembled in this great place with a similar object. I am sure, if the building would hold double or treble the number it would have been crowded. The fact of our assembling in such numbers is a proof that when the next occasion arrives, Mr. ——— is certain of his seat. And I am told, also, there will be room for a second ——— candidate, and therefore, gentlemen, we will return two next time. As the commanding officer of Volunteers, I must not say too much, but I have the ——— cause at heart, and shall do my best to return ——— members at the next election which takes place.

GENTLEMEN,—On rising to return thanks for the Volunteers, I have to remark that each of the gentlemen who have returned thanks for the Army and Navy has said that the respective services were never in a better state of efficiency. I stand forward to supplement the toast by returning thanks for a very large and important body of men, no inconsiderable portion of whom are present at this festive board. The Army and Navy were always looked upon as the defenders of our coast and our soil, and it is no small encouragement and compliment to the Volunteers that they should form a supplement to that very long-standing toast, "The Army and Navy of England." For my part, I have the most implicit confidence in the Volunteers, and I am sure the country generally has, and that if their services should be required in defence of their country, they will not disappoint expectation. Ever since I have been associated with the Volunteers I have watched my own men from their formation to the period when they have almost arrived at perfection, and I cannot let this opportunity pass without expressing my satisfaction at their admirable drill and effective movements, and of my gallant friend on my right (Captain ———), who takes especial interest in all that appertains to their efficiency. I am not at all surprised to witness the efficiency of the —th ———, seeing that they are so well officered. The preceding speakers have claimed the excellent Chairman for the Army and Navy, and each has put in a claim for him to rank with them; but I can inform these gentlemen who represent the Army and Navy

that they are "a day behind the fair," for the worthy and honourable Chairman is claimed, and that claim is allowed, for the Volunteers. He is a distinguished officer of the ——— Corps. So let them be content that, though they cannot have him for the regular service, they have got him for a Volunteer.

Response.—"THE VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY AND VOLUNTEER RIFLEMEN."

MR. CHAIRMAN,—I return thanks for the Volunteer Artillery, and can bear testimony to the admirable manner in which the different corps of this county have acquitted themselves this day. They consisted of scattered corps which had never been brought together before, but their performances illustrated the principle which I have constantly enunciated, namely, that when company drill has been attended to, there is no fear but that when brought together in battalions and brigades they can work well. In Great Britain there are now 347 batteries of Volunteer Artillery, such as those we have seen this day, representing a total force of 22,500 artillerymen; in addition to which we have 148,000 Volunteer riflemen. The latter body comprise 211 battalions—that is to say, consolidated battalions in the large towns, under the command of field officers with their Staff, and what are called administrative battalions, consisting of corps raised in other and smaller towns, also under the command of field officers with their Staff. Only ——— day I inspected ——— companies of these scattered corps, forming two battalions, in the county of ———, and they went through all the manœuvres required of infantry on a field day with great credit to themselves. The main stay of the movement is the love of the people for firearms, which is being gradually developed by the National Association, under the auspices of Lord Elcho; and altogether the Volunteer force throughout the country is in a very progressive state of efficiency. A general order has recently been issued, in accordance with the wishes of the Government, for the training of the different corps, each of which, I am glad to say, will now have permanent drill instructors, in addition to the adjutant. The weak point of our Volunteer system is said to be the officers. No doubt those gentlemen require time to attain proficiency, but I believe they will not undertake their important duties unless they really intend to qualify themselves for their proper fulfilment. In conclusion, I thank you on behalf of the Volunteers.

GENTLEMEN,—On behalf of "The Volunteers," who now have become an established fact, and increasing gradually as they have done to something like 170,000 men, they are not going to decrease rapidly; and whenever they are wanted, I am sure the agricultural men of the county of ——— will stand side by side with their smarter and more soldier-like brethren of ———, and do their best in the defence of their country. Gentlemen, I am a man of few words, but I have to thank you on behalf of the Volunteers.

THE CHURCH.

THE BISHOP AND CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE.

"THE CHURCH, AND THE BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE."

GENTLEMEN,—Under circumstances of great diffidence I rise to propose the next toast. I had hoped it would have fallen into hands abler than mine to do justice to such a cause. This is neither the time nor place to treat on matters of religion, and I will not trench on such tender ground; but we can in all times and in all places show our love and veneration for that Church before whose font we were christened in earliest childhood, at whose altar we have knelt, and within whose pale we hope to die. For that sacred edifice, linked as it is with all that is dear to home and childhood, every man must feel a holy love; what, then, for her sons who, in perfect abnegation of self, go forth to teach and lead us to happiness? Shall not the clergy of our much-loved Church receive at our hands the thanks they so well deserve? Join me, then, heartily in this toast,—“The Church, and the Bishop of the Diocese.”

"THE CHURCH AND QUEEN."

“Here’s a health to Old England, the Queen, and the Church;
May all plotting contrivers be left in the lurch;
May England’s brave monarch fight for our just cause,
Establish true peace, our religion, and laws.”

GENTLEMEN,—You have now to withdraw your minds from the thoughts inspired by some previous toasts and speeches. I have not to speak to you of martial deeds by sea or land, or of the triumphs of civil statesmanship, but to propose a toast which relates to a body of men who by their simple piety and pure doctrine, I believe in my conscience, have done as much, or even more than any other class or profession in this kingdom for its general welfare. I will now conclude by proposing “His Grace the Archbishop of ———, and the Bishop and Clergy of this Diocese.”

**"THE BISHOP AND CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE, AND THE
MINISTERS OF ALL RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS."**

GENTLEMEN,—The toast which I have the honour of submitting to your notice is one that I am convinced will receive the same amount of enthusiasm as have the toasts which have preceded it. I have always considered, and I shall prove to-night, that the toast which I have the honour to propose forms one of the fundamental parts of pure —ism, for it is that of Church and State. We have heard from our Chairman that the Queen is the Defender of the Faith, and of principles which she must promulgate; I conceive that those principles are being promulgated by the Bishop and Clergy of our Diocese, and, as the toast expresses it, "the Ministers of all Religious Denominations." The toast is a very collective one. The Bishop has for years held office; his charitable disposition, his virtuous life, have won for him feelings of the deepest affection. Of our Vicar I can only say, that I am sure that it is only the pressure of years which prevents him from being here to-night; we ever find him just and foremost in all matters of charity. As to Ministers of all denominations, — stands prominently forward amongst the towns of England, for you can hear in — gentlemen of all opinions, from the extreme High Church even to that commodity so Low which almost attaches itself to the —. I am sure the name of Mr. —, which I shall couple with the toast, will be well received. He displays a vast amount of energy in the discharge of his duties in his own district. I will not dilate further, as there are so many speeches and toasts to follow, but content myself by proposing the toast of "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese, and the Ministers of all Religious Denominations."

"THE BISHOP AND CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE."

GENTLEMEN,—I rise to propose a toast which I am sure will be received with cordiality, "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese." I have the pleasure of the acquaintance of our Bishop, Dr. —; he is a most learned and most excellent man, and he is surrounded by a body of clergy who, I have every reason to believe, enjoy the confidence, the love, affection, and respect of their flocks throughout his diocese. I will not limit the term clergy to those of the Church of England, but I wish to extend it and use it in its ancient sense, so as to include all those learned and good men in all those communions which may be represented in this district. Amidst all our warring controversies there is one point of harmony which may be said to reconcile all jarring chords, and it is this: however varied in opinion, whatever the special direction of their thoughts may be, they all of them—all these various communions—agree in one object, that is, the right understanding of what God has revealed to us, and the wish that all men may be like brothers in their belief. Gentlemen, I beg, in giving this toast, to express the pleasure I feel, and all must

share, in seeing my neighbour and friend, Mr. ———. He has, as we all know, hereditary claims to our regard and affection. We have known his predecessor, ———, for many years, and have valued him; and I am old enough to remember Dr. ———, who was so much loved and respected for so many years. I beg to give you, "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese."

Response.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—In the name of the Bishop and Clergy of this Diocese, I beg to thank you for the compliment that you have paid to us in drinking our health. It is, indeed, very pleasant, amongst our graver duties, to find ourselves partaking in such happy festivities as those of this day. We are called upon to weep with those that weep, but it is no less our privilege to rejoice with those that do rejoice; and I am sure no one enters more gladly into the social happiness of the laity than do the clergy. Indeed we, the clergy of this place and diocese, would be ungrateful indeed if we did not enter warmly into anything, my Lord, which affected the happiness of yourself or your family; for not only has the Church had liberal supporters in the Lords of ———, but we personally have always had kind and warm friends in Lord ——— and the Earl of ———. I am sure I am only saying that which each of the clergy would say, when I tell you that we sincerely congratulate you on the happy event which we this day commemorate.

GENTLEMEN,—In returning thanks for the compliment paid to "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," I beg to observe that this is the only public dinner which I attend in the course of the year; and I hope I may be long able to take part in this annual festival. It must afford the highest gratification to the clergymen of the Established Church to find the toast you have just proposed so favourably received in a mixed company, such as I now have the honour of addressing. And it is a good proof that they perform their duty efficiently and satisfactorily, and that they perform it at the same time without offence to the members of other denominations.

"Fond fools
Promise themselves a name from building churches."

"Some to church repair,
Not for the doctrine, but the music there."

The union of the Church and State is not to make the Church
political, but the State *religious*.

THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

Toast.—By the Chairman.—“THE HOUSE OF LORDS.”

GENTLEMEN,—In proposing “The House of Lords,” I may be allowed to observe, that at no period during its existence has it held a more satisfactory position than it does at this moment, and I trust that it will long continue to exercise a beneficial influence on the country. I look upon the House of Lords as necessary to the well-being and welfare of the country as that every locomotive should have its safety-valve for the security of the traveller. On the present occasion I feel a special interest in proposing the toast, for you have the pleasure of the presence of one of the most distinguished members of that high assembly, and not only a member of that assembly, but one who has held office under Her Majesty. There is no office in the country for which he is not fitted, and I hope to see the day when the ——— will again be advanced to some position fitted to his capacity.

May all men of base principles be abandoned by their principles.

GENTLEMEN,—I have now the honour to propose that you drink to the health of the House of Lords. I am sure that I am expressing the sentiments and opinions of my fellow-countrymen when I say that the House of Lords is an institution which they deeply cherish; because we believe that within the House it contains the elements of the freedom and the liberties of the people. It is pleasing to know that our old aristocracy recruit their ranks, and that frequently from those of commercial industry, from that of learning, and from men who have distinguished themselves in the various walks of life. You have an illustration of that in the person of the noble lord whose name I have the honour to associate with the present toast. I mean the Right Honourable the Lord ———. His countrymen entertain for him the profoundest respect. They look upon him as the representative of that noble principle, the true-born nature's aristocracy. We welcome him here to-night, and we trust that his lordship will long be spared to adorn the House of which he is so distinguished a member. Gentlemen, in conclusion, I give you “The Health of the House of Lords,” coupling with it the name of Lord ———.

The House in the middle of the Thames, and every honest member a cork jacket.

Response.—By a Member of the House of Lords.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—I am very grateful to you for the kind manner in which you have received the mention of my health, and to my honourable friend for the manner in which he has connected it with the toast of “The House of Lords,”—a toast which I am always glad to see received with cordiality by all classes of my fellow-countrymen; and I say this, not because I happen to be a member of that House, but because I know that, in this country, praise is never bestowed, and cordiality is never exhibited, except when they are thought to be deserved. I claim no superiority for the members of the House of Lords over any other class or any other set of well-educated men, but I believe that nowhere, or in any assembly, can be found a greater amount of talent, of honesty, and of integrity. It has been said, and truly said, that in that assembly are to be found men of antiquated notions, the advocates of exclusive privileges, and the opponents of popular rights. And if that be true, so far from regretting it, I think that these men are in the right place, doing harm to none but themselves, and serving as finger-posts pointing to bygone times, and landmarks, high and dry, to indicate the rapidity of the advance of the age. Gentlemen, composed as the House of Lords is of men the majority of whom have a great stake in the country, and therefore an individual interest in its prosperity and good government—recruited as that House is from the ranks of men whose intellect is immense, whose successful industrial or great public services entitle them to the highest rewards that the Sovereign can bestow—the House of Lords has earned the respect of the country, and I hope it will continue to do so by ably and faithfully discharging its duty. The House of Lords, by its number and the elements of which it is composed, is practically a popular assembly,—not so popular an assembly, certainly, as the House of Commons; but one is as much as the other under the same influence—that of public opinion—which is the result of free thought, of free discussion, of a free press, of that conflict which reason wages against prejudice and passion, and by which truth is separated from error. The opinion so created is no bad master to serve, and no unsafe guide to follow. It is true that the House of Commons, from its more popular origin, may be more ready to receive and more prompt to act upon impressions from without, while the House of Lords may occasionally doubt and hesitate; but that doubt and hesitation has many a time prevented undue haste in the greatest of all matters—the making of laws. But in giving effect to real and true public opinion—in consulting the wishes and promoting the interests of the public—the history of the last thirty years affords abundant evidence that prejudice and self-interest will never prevail, and that the country will never be disappointed by the House of Lords. Gentlemen, once more I beg to thank you for the manner in which you have received the toast.

Our *constitutional* friends—the Baron and the Sir-loin.
 Our friends! our country! and our laws!—Home! Love! and
 Liberty!

Toast.—By the Chairman.—“THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.”

GENTLEMEN,—In giving the next toast I will be very brief; not that the subject is of an unimportant or secondary character, for it is one that can be enlarged upon to any extent, and then justice hardly done to it. It is “The House of Commons;” and as you will be more anxious to hear the gentleman whom I shall name in connection with the toast than myself, I will be content with saying that I believe the Commons’ House of Parliament represents the feelings of all classes of the community, and even all its prejudices. There is no grievance which cannot find a voice to bring it before the House, and there is no better place in which justice can be sought. Gentlemen, I have great pleasure in giving you the toast of “The House of Commons,” and to couple with it the name of Mr. ———.

GENTLEMEN,—I have now the honour to propose that we drink to the House of Commons. I do not think it necessary, at this late hour of the evening, and still less at this late period of the session, to say much in reference to the House of Commons. I may, however, be permitted to say of that distinguished assembly, that I trust the example of the past may prove instructive for the future, and that whatever measures may be produced in it may be to the permanent advantage and interest of the country. We all have great pleasure upon this occasion in welcoming here a most distinguished member of that House in the person of ———. We who have not the opportunity of sitting in that glorious assembly are accustomed to read with great interest and great instruction the remarkable speeches of that right hon. gentleman, and it forms a portion of what is called polite education to be familiar with his admirable productions in another form. I can only express a sincere and earnest hope that the right hon. gentleman, in dealing with the finances of the country, may be as successful with fact as he has been with fiction. I beg to give you “The Health of the House of Commons,” and to associate with the toast the name of the Right Hon. ———.

Response.—By a Member of the House of Commons.

GENTLEMEN,—I rise, in obedience to the call of your Chairman, to return thanks on behalf of the House of Commons; and yet I do so with some hesitation, because I cannot forget that in this room, and at this table, you have a member, although an ex-member of that House, older and far more experienced than I can claim to be—I mean Lord ———. However, I suppose he has been long enough in the Lords to forget that he ever went through the ordeal of a popular election! and I have always the greatest pleasure in returning thanks on behalf of the House of Commons. I have sat in that House now for nearly ——— years, and I can say with perfect truth, that the longer I have known it the higher has risen my respect for its ability and for its common sense. I have once said before—you will pardon me if I repeat it now—that I believe,

both as regards men and things, the opinion of the House collectively is generally better than that of any individual member out of it. I say this for the benefit of your members. The House, so long as I have known it, has always shown a marvellous tact—almost approaching to an instinct—in discerning who were likely to contribute anything to its defects, and who were merely got up to waste time and to air their vocabulary. I have heard speak, with real fluency and eloquence in their way, men of that kind who are described as having great command of language—when probably it would be correct to say that language had great command of them, because they have about as much command over it as a man has over a runaway horse—men of that class whom I have heard described as not knowing what they were going to say when they got up, not knowing what they were saying when they were on their legs, and not knowing what they had said when they sat down. I say I have known many men of that sort left to declaim to empty benches, while you would have 600 members listening in silent respect to somebody else, who certainly had not the gift of oratory, who brought his sentences out head foremost or tail foremost, as the case might be, until you wondered how it was possible for a man to speak such bad grammar. But the secret was that they found out that the one man had nothing to tell them except the commonplaces they all knew before, but that the other man, however awkwardly and uncouthly he might do it, really had it in his power to contribute some new ideas to the discussion that was going on, and intended to do so. I recollect that when, ——— years ago, the discussion was going on about the competitive examinations for the public service, somebody said, by way of a sneer, “If this competitive examination is such a good thing, why do you confine it to the clerks? Why don’t you have it also for Secretaries of State and Chancellors of the Exchequer?” Well, my answer was and is, that that is exactly what we do. No man can obtain a leading position in the House of Commons without passing through a competitive examination of a very rigid and trying kind. It is a trial of physical strength and endurance; it is a trial of patience and of temper; it is a trial of readiness and fluency; it is a trial of thorough and accurate knowledge. But last, and chiefly of all, it is a trial of common sense and of knowledge of the world. If a man fails notoriously in any one of these particulars, but more especially if he fails in the last, he may do very well elsewhere, but he is not a man who can take a leading part in the House of Commons. Now, only one word more. I suppose there is no popular assembly that has ever enjoyed so much respect and exercised so much power as the English House of Commons. Now, why is that? To give you all the causes would be too long a story for you to hear, but I’ll tell you one. It is because there has never existed in the world a legislative body whose component members were so thoroughly independent—independent in social position for one thing, independent in feeling and in character for another. Take the whole House through; count up—you may easily do it—the number of those who are known to be aspiring to high political office; deduct again—and I am happy to say they are very few—those who are supposed to come in on the

speculation that they may drop in for a comfortable place somewhere—deduct both these classes, and you will still leave behind the great majority of that House. I therefore say the great majority of that House is composed of men who have nothing to fear and nothing to gain from any Ministers—and who can follow a Minister without servility, and oppose him without asperity. While that remains the character of the House of Commons, I for one am not afraid it will ever lose that position it now holds in public opinion.

Response.—"THE BOROUGH MEMBERS."

GENTLEMEN,—The worthy alderman who has proposed my health remarked, that the people expected great things from the New Parliament. Now, seeing that there will be — new men who have never yet sat within the walls of St. Stephen's, I will not venture to predicate what may or may not result from the New Parliament. Our history tells us that we have had a Parliament which was known as the "Ignorant Parliament;" another the "Long Parliament," not to mention the "Barebones Parliament" and the "Rump Parliament." Indeed a very recent Parliament, if my memory do not deceive me, was on one occasion irreverently designated by the organ of metropolitan opinion as the "Soap-nosed Parliament." Hence, who will dare affirm by what laudatory epithet, or by what opprobrious nickname, the New Parliament may hereafter be known by in our history? What was thought of the House of Commons about a century ago, can be seen on reading the life of the celebrated engineer,—I ought rather to have said the celebrated philosopher,—James Watt. It is not surprising that he should not have been enamoured of public life, of which he obtained a glimpse in 1767, when a witness on a Parliamentary committee. In writing to his wife, he says:—"I am close confined by having to attend this confounded committee;" and he adds, "I think I shall not long to have anything to do with the House of Commons again. I never saw so many wrong-headed people—on all sides—gathered together. As Mac says, 'I believe the *Deevil* has possession of them.' " Good taste forbids that, at a municipal festivity like this, any reference to contentions or party politics should be tolerated. Having, however, so recently emerged from the excitement and turmoil of a contested election, and being now on neutral ground, I gladly avail myself of this opportunity to thank my political opponents for the kindness and good feeling they have uniformly evinced towards me. And I must add, in conclusion, that I shall never forget it was mainly owing to the earnest support of many warm friends whom I now see around me, that I am again able to tender to you all my heartfelt thanks as one of the Parliamentary representatives of this flourishing and important constituency.

Our glorious country,—the throne, the birthplace of the free.
Our altars and our hearths; when attacked, may we die to preserve them.

THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH MEMBERS.

Toast.—The Chairman.

"THE COUNTY MEMBERS."

GENTLEMEN,—In rising to propose the health of the Members for the County, I must claim your indulgence for a few moments, while I show as briefly as I can the merits that entitle them to your respect, and the reason why they deserve your thanks.

Gentlemen,—I will admit freely that the honour of being elected as a Knight of the Shire, to serve in the Commons' House of Parliament as the people's representative, is one of no mean degree. It is a dignity, the acquirement of which would justify the aspirations of any man; but a man may well pause ere he assumes the high responsibility that such an office would bring. It is the due performance of the duties in a clear, honest, and straightforward manner, that entitles our members to our continued support, and wins for them our applause, whenever occasions like the present offer. With the hope, then, that our present county members may long live to bear their honours, and with them the satisfaction and support of their constituents, I conclude by proposing **"The Members for the County."**

Toast.—The Chairman.

"THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH MEMBERS."

GENTLEMEN,—In proposing the next toast, "The County and Borough Members," I am sure that when Englishmen reflect upon the position of Europe and other portions of the world, they may feel proud of the pre-eminence and constitution of their country. The varied political opinions of England are fairly represented by the members of the counties and boroughs; and with regard to our own representatives, whatever their opinions may be, or the development of their conduct, as viewed through the public prints, I am sure you all feel that your members honestly and zealously discharge their duties with a patriotic desire to advance the high interests of the country.

GENTLEMEN,—We are always ready to do honour to those who serve us, and assuredly our County and Borough Members have served and are serving us well. It is impossible to have watched the last Parliament without seeing that they were men of consummate energy and talent, devoting themselves to all the important questions mooted in the House, and in many instances displaying very great talent indeed. On one occasion especially—on the———question—our County Member has shown great discernment and application, and, though unsuccessful, he made an admirable fight of it. As to our Borough Members, they have, in their places in

Parliament, raised their voices on the side of everything conducing to the interests of the borough and of the country. I am sure the Hon. Member before me so raised his voice, that if they did not heed him, they must have heard him; and he was, in fact, attracting great attention,—an attention increasing every night of the Session. There can be no doubt that he was gaining more and more the ear of the House. The other Honourable Member for the Borough, Mr. ———, has also for many seasons shown how much he is interested in all that concerns the public welfare, and particularly in regard to this borough; and I am told that, whenever anything has occurred upon which it was necessary for the authorities to place themselves in communication with their members, they have always found them ready to act with them, and to assist them in every possible manner.

GENTLEMEN,—I will give “The Borough and County Members.” First on the list is Mr. ———, our senior Member, and a tried man. In my late capacity as Mayor, I always found Mr. ——— assisting, both with his time and purse, everything that was beneficial to the town. Next is Mr. ———, who is an untried man; but we have seen him under two different aspects, one the antipodes of the other—we have seen him defeated, and have seen him victorious—and in the hour of victory he wore the same kind, calm look as he did in the hour of defeat. Mr. ——— is a gentleman of great attainments, and the eyes of the country at large are upon him; and it is to be hoped that the estimation which has been formed of him will be realized. Next we have our old friend, whose name was a very household word—Mr. ———. He is another tried gentleman, whose abilities, zeal, and attention to all matters, and the manner in which he conducted himself, has met with universal satisfaction, not only from the county, but from the kingdom. Then we have Lord ———, who is, like Mr. ———, an untried man, and of whom, personally, we know but little; but the name of ——— is associated th everything that is great and good.

Toast.—By a Distinguished Guest.

“THE BOROUGH MEMBERS.”

GENTLEMEN,—By the kind permission of the Chairman, I am allowed to give a toast, and most cheerfully do I rise for that purpose, from the assurance I have that one and all here will join me, and hail with acclamation, “The Members of our Borough.” Gentlemen, this is not the time for a political speech, and if it were so, I am not inclined to give one; enough can be said for these gentlemen without touching on the dangerous ground of politics. In social life we have known them well, and many of us know how highly they are valued in their domestic circles. For this, then, as well as for their generosity and charity, for the local good they are constantly effecting in our borough, and their support and patronage to our races and other sports, and close attention to our interests on all occasions, we are bound to give a long and hearty cheer for the Borough Members.

THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH MAGISTRATES.

Toast.—The Chairman.

"THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY."

GENTLEMEN,—I have great pleasure in proposing to your notice the next toast, "The Lord Lieutenant of the County." The nobleman honoured by Her Majesty with this ancient office is one not unknown to you all. Those who live within the sphere of his immediate influence can bear testimony to his worth; his unbounded acts of charity are patent to the world; and he needs only to be known to be esteemed, not alone for his public virtues, but for his private worth. May God spare his life for another generation to applaud him as we do, the type of an English gentleman!

"The Lord Lieutenant."

"THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY."

GENTLEMEN,—I have the pleasure of proposing "The Lord Lieutenant of the County," a nobleman who has exercised the greatest energy, ability, and kindness of heart in promoting the best interests of this part of the kingdom. With the toast I would name the Magistrates of the County. I have been in the habit of seeing how well their duties were always performed. It is not too much to say that although I have seen the duties of magistrates admirably performed in other counties, I do not know that they are performed any where with so much zeal, so much discretion, and so much kindness as by the magistrates of ——. You must forgive me if I make particular allusion to one magistrate, who occasionally presides in one of the Courts of Quarter Session—I mean my excellent friend Mr. —; and I can only say I regret that that gentleman has retired from public life, for he was a most estimable man, and a very useful member of society. I will therefore propose "The Lord Lieutenant of the County, and the Magistrates of —," coupling with the toast the name of Mr. —.

"And then, the justice,
In fair round belly, with good capon lin'd,
With eyes severe, and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances,
And so he plays his part."

Toast.—"THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND THE MAGISTRACY OF THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH JUSTICES."

GENTLEMEN,—The toast that I have the honour to propose is the Lord Lieutenant and the Magistracy of this county. The toast is one which, in an assembly like the present, calls for but few remarks from me. The office of Lord Lieutenant has at all times been represented by the nobility and aristocracy of the land, men well known for their honesty of purpose, and whose integrity commands at once our respect and attention. Our Lord Lieutenant, I am happy to say, is a resident amongst us. He has by his ability, integrity, generosity, and kindness of heart won from all classes golden opinions. His virtues are so well known to you, that I am sure it is only necessary to repeat his name to command at once a cordial response. Our toast also includes the Magistracy and Borough Justices, who likewise hold a position high in our estimation. Ranking among them those who have been of the highest eminence in various positions, as well as those who have been engaged in various spheres of trade and commerce, these gentlemen have cordially and earnestly rendered to us their disinterested services. And, gentlemen, it is only by comparing the privileges we enjoy with those of less favoured countries that we can at all appreciate the blessings we derive by having our laws administered by an unpaid Magistracy. All honour, then, to our Magistracy, and to those who are set in authority over us. We should be thankful that those noble institutions have been preserved inviolate to us and our children. Long may they continue to be so, and may we be united hand to hand for their preservation, especially as we cannot close our eyes to the fact that those institutions are assailed by those high in authority, from whom we might expect better things. I believe, never was there a time when Englishmen should, with more earnestness, give utterance to the prayer that "peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, may be established among us for all generations." Gentlemen, drink with me, then, the health of the Lord Lieutenant and the Magistrates, coupled with the name of Mr. ———, formerly Member for ———, to whom the recent victory in ——— was mainly attributable.

Response.—"LORD LIEUTENANT AND COUNTY AND BOROUGH MAGISTRATES."

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to return you my best thanks on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant and County Magistrates,—not only of the county but the borough of ———. I may seem out of place in returning thanks for the Magistrates of the borough of ———; but, gentlemen, I recollect ——— years ago, and all I can say is, I have great pleasure in returning thanks for their Magistrates' health. I also return you our best thanks for the magistrates of the county of ———. The magistrates of England are no preachers for the Government. They do their duty impartially, independently of any

Government, and as they do so, between man and man, they will receive the approbation of their fellow-citizens. Gentlemen, my duty ought, perhaps, to cease here, but I cannot meet so magnificent an assembly as the present without feelings of warmth and gratitude. It gives me great pleasure to see such an assemblage supporting that cause which I have so deeply at heart. You have an idea in ——— that we in the county take no interest in your proceedings in this town, and ask what we have to do with the affairs of Mr. ———. But, in answer, I say we do think of you; we must work together, we must pull together, if we mean to be successful. If there is one thing I regret in this contest it is, that what I have done for Mr. ——— has not been successful, although my best has been done; and I also regret that my old friend, Mr. ———, has not been returned. The time has come, gentlemen, and the ———s—ay, the ———s if you will—think so too, that the common country is in danger; and we must join in one common cause to save our country. I believe the Church of England to be in danger, and I will, as long as I have breath, support the Protestant constitution of England. Next to the question of establishment comes the land question. Some gentlemen are very fond of quoting Scripture. I will quote Scripture, and say, "Whosoever removeth his neighbour's landmark is accursed." If you remove the landmark, you will remove other matters, most likely, and those who work under landlords will, perhaps, claim their capital from them, and rub out the landmark which divides right from wrong, and the sacredness of property will be ignored altogether. I know there are other points on which I could speak, but I trust we shall all join in one common cause at this moment. I have come forward because I thought my country was in danger, and I will join with you to the last breath to meet the enemy who would destroy the constitution of England; and I hope and trust, by our joint efforts, we shall have the power to save the country in which we were born and bred, and in which we hope to die.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE MAGISTRATES OF THE COUNTY."

GENTLEMEN,—The pleasing duty now devolves on me of proposing "The Magistrates of the County." This is a toast to which full honour should be done, and I shall not ask you in vain.

When we see gentlemen of such high standing in society, and who have so many demands on their time, giving up their leisure hours to the service of the State and people, as they must do who faithfully serve the office of "Justice of the Peace," I think our least return should be to thank them. None better than the gentlemen who now surround me can appreciate their worth, and, therefore, there are none from whom the applause could better come. I have no doubt they are all known to you personally, and not better known than esteemed. Without further preface, then, I shall propose to you "The Magistrates of the County."

"THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH MAGISTRATES."

GENTLEMEN,—In giving "The County and Borough Magistrates," I will say that it is not a pleasant thing at any time or under any circumstances to be brought up before the magistrates; but if one is to be so brought up, one likes it to be before men who are competent to do their duty, and who do one justice; and I think that in ——— every man must feel, if he is sent to gaol, it is because he deserves it. I trust that the civilizing and humanizing effects of this among other movements will be such that in time the office of magistrate in this borough may become a sinecure; and I am not without hope that, if I live to propose this toast a few years hence, it will be drunk in solemn silence, the magistrates having become simply historical characters, whose duties have become utterly obsolete, in consequence of the great spread of education and other combining matters.

"THE BOROUGH MAGISTRATES."

GENTLEMEN,—Taking the opportunity offered me, I ask your permission to propose the next toast of the evening, which is "The Borough Magistrates."

To those amongst us whose leisure will afford time to attend occasionally at the bench and witness the manner in which our local magistrates dispense justice, I need say nothing to enlist their favour for the toast. To others whose time is so occupied in the battle of life, that from the journals only can they gather knowledge of our local affairs, I can with security rest for a favourable verdict; and to all I can say that the gentlemen filling the office of Justice of the Peace in the borough of ——— are an honour to their country and a credit to the borough.

Response.—"THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH MAGISTRATES."

GENTLEMEN,—Holding as I do Her Majesty's Commission as a Justice of the Peace for both County and Borough, I have been requested by my brother Magistrates to thank you for the last toast, and I do so most heartily. The manner in which it was proposed and received convinces us that we have gained your confidence. That "Justice is blind" is, in a spirit of irony, sometimes misquoted, the interpretation of it misapplied, to throw ridicule upon the decisions of a court. She ought always to be blind—powerless to look with favour on either side. It often happens that we have to shut our eyes, not to the facts of the case, but to the position of the parties connected with it, and the magistrates of ——— can, I sincerely believe, claim credit for being impartial. Sometimes it happens that a case occurs in which, upon the surface, a decision

may appear harsh, and a cry is raised that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor; but, depend upon it, that those who raise the cry do it with erroneous philanthropy, not knowing every particular as it is made known to the magistrate, and of which the public is ignorant. Those complaints have not had to be made in this district, where the proceedings of the Court are watched by a well-conducted press; but depend upon it, that should justice miscarry at any time, the blame will be attributable to an error in judgment, and not to any desire to depart from an oath to administer the law without fear, favour, or affection.

Response.—"THE BOROUGH MAGISTRATES."

MR. CHAIRMAN,—In returning thanks for the Borough Magistrates, I shall be very brief, because of the hour, for I must remind those present that, by a recent Act of Parliament, drinking is not allowed after one o'clock, and they are *not* "allowed" to be drunk on the premises. But should any gentleman present find himself, "owing to circumstances over which he had no control," placed before me in the morning, I shall be most happy to lend him five shillings to enable me to fine him. I should not like to be the cause of your breaking the law, and I will therefore not detain you longer; but I must testify to the kind and cordial assistance which I and my brother Magistrates have at all times received from past Mayors, and which, I have no doubt, we shall receive from the present one.

"Yet I shall temper so
Justice with mercy, as may illustrate most
Them fully satisfy'd, and thee appease."

Equal punishment to the ragged rascal and the rich villain.

May the misfortunes of others be always examined as the chart of our own conduct.

May they be as ready to correct their own faults as to punish the faults of others.

May our thoughts never mislead our judgment.

May justice and mercy ever be entwined.

VILLAGE FESTIVITIES.

Speeches at a Village Festival on the Occasion of the Coming of Age or Marriage of the young Lord or Esquire, with Responses.

MY LORD, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—I have to propose to you a toast which I am sure has only to be mentioned in order to be received with enthusiasm. It is "The health, long life, and happiness of the young ———, of ———." In looking to his future career, gentlemen, we naturally connect him with a long line of noble ancestors, who have ever taken a leading part in the events of their time, and left behind them a name for loyalty and devotion to their country's good. Happily, the days have now passed away when the love of our country must be shown by deeds of arms, and deeds of martial prowess. Should those dark days ever come back again—which God forbid!—I doubt not that the ——— would still be found true to their principles, and be ready to lay aside the gentler pursuits of modern refinement, at the call of duty, for the hardier exploits of the camp and the field. But it is by nobler and better means that the ——— and ——— of later times have proved themselves worthy of the names they bear. As great landed proprietors, living among their tenantry; as large employers of labour, taking a lively interest in those whom they employ; they have won, and deservedly won, the esteem of those around them. It has been my lot, since I have lived here, to mix familiarly with all classes of society, and, whether it be from high or low, from rich or poor, and I may add from men of all shades of political opinion, I have heard the family, and every member of it, spoken of with honour and respect. These are the deeds which, in our days, are worthy of emulation; and if I may venture some friendly advice to the ———, I would most earnestly recommend him to tread in the steps of his forefathers. There is another subject which I cannot forbear to mention, though I feel, in speaking of it, that I am treading on somewhat delicate ground. I dare say all of us have heard that the ——— has lately formed a happy matrimonial engagement—an engagement which has been joyfully welcomed by his family. We cannot, therefore, think of his future prospects and his future happiness without connecting them with the lady of his choice; and I am sure I am uttering the sentiments of every one in this room, when I say that we wish them a long and happy life, to be spent amongst their friends and future tenantry, mutually helping one another to do good to those around them; and I may add that I hope an heir will never be wanting to the house of ———, and we will drink it, if you please, with the usual honours.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour to propose the next toast, and it is one which I am sure every gentleman present will drink with great pleasure. I have to propose the health of the ——— of ———. For about ——— years my Lord ——— has been the lord in possession of ———, and I will venture to say, through the whole of that time his generosity of spirit, his justice, his easiness of access, his love of his tenantry, and his desire to serve his

neighbours, have been acknowledged by everybody. It is, indeed, a proud thing to be descended from a long and distinguished line of ancestors, in whose escutcheons scarcely a blot may be seen; and, gentlemen, I do not hesitate to say that in a very long life, approaching now to evening, my Lord —— has won on no side anything but affection and esteem. Generation passes after generation; the future —— has spoken to you. Gentlemen, the ——, if he were in this room, with his honoured —— years off his shoulders, would have seen a gleam of sunshine when he viewed the face of his descendant standing before you and receiving that esteem and honour of which, I trust, he will show himself deserving in his future career. When I last saw the heir of the ——, he was standing beside his grandfather in the ball-room, and I thought, as they stood side by side—bald age and sturdy, hopeful youth—I thought, there stood the last representatives of those knightly ——s who for —— hundred years had their home upon these Hills. I am sure that my Lord —— would have been delighted to have met ——, his tenantry, and his immediate friends and neighbours, some of whom were present at the rejoicings after his own marriage, to bring back associations of many a past year, and to take that solace to himself which an honourable and noble-minded man can take; for, when it comes to the last, he has the confidence of an irrefragable life with which he can meet his friends and neighbours. I will not dwell further on this subject. I beg to propose the health of the —— . Take the cheer from me, and we will make it ring round these old walls of ——.

MR. CHAIRMAN,—I was in hopes that my brother —— would have been here this evening. It had been intended that he should have responded to the toast which my friend Mr. —— has just proposed; but, at the same time, I cannot regret that the task has fallen upon myself, for no one has more right than I have to return thanks in my father's name. Mr. —— has alluded to his age. He is now —— years beyond the threescore and ten of men, and during the whole of that time he has lived in the presence of his neighbours at ——, and has to the best of his ability laboured to do his duty, not in an ostentatious way, but day by day doing that which each day he had given him to do. Part of the time he represented the borough of —— in Parliament, until he succeeded to his father, or I should rather say to his mother, who was the representative of those ——s to whom Mr. —— has alluded. When my grandfather succeeded to the ——s, he devoted himself to endeavouring to develop the industry of this district, so far as was in his power. He had a great deal to do in supporting the construction of canals, promoting ironworks and collieries; and, in fact, he foresaw to a great degree the grand development which the enterprise of the present century would produce in this district. After his time, when my father came into possession, he endeavoured to carry out his father's plans, modifying them as circumstances rendered it expedient; and during the greater part of that time he was aided by the great genius and talent of my lamented friend Mr. ——, whose son now worthily fills the office of —— . After this time

he had the advantage of the assistance of my friend Mr. ———, to whom we all have owed so much. During this time he did not, as far as he was able, neglect the land, and he had the most able and kind assistance in my friend Mr. ———. Gentlemen, Commerce and Agriculture are twin sisters, whose statues should always be sculptured with their arms entwined above the portal of the Temple of Industry. My father, after the labour and heat of the day, is now reposing in the contented happiness of old age; he gives himself little concern as regards the necessities of life, and is content to enjoy the many pleasures which are within his reach. The society of his grandchildren is one of his greatest delights, and he still enjoys his drives, still enjoys the accomplishment of drawing, which he was accustomed to make his amusement in youth, and which is the solace of his old age. A more contented and happy, a more cheerful old age, I do not know. My friend Mr. ——— alluded very gracefully to the gleam of sunshine which came to cheer this inclement evening, and I may carry out the allusion, and say that my father's old age at present resembles what we have seen recently—those beautifully prolonged summer evenings, in which the sun, instead of exactly setting, lingers long on the horizon. I hope his life will still continue to hover long over the future. Before I conclude, I must express my great gratification at the manner in which you received the health of my son on this occasion. It is a great gratification to me to see him welcomed in this manner by men in whose society he has grown up, and who will be the kindly yet watchful observers of his future career. I may say one word as regards his mother and myself, that his choice has fallen upon one belonging to this country. We have known her family for many, very many, years; she is everything that is charming; and I am sure, when you come to know her, you will recognize in her a lovely ——— lass of the first water.

Toast.—"THE TENANTRY."

GENTLEMEN,—In proposing "The Tenantry," it is many years since I was a resident in this place, and therefore I may presume that many whom I knew twenty years ago are no longer living, for many of my friends at that time were men advanced in years. I have no hesitation in saying, that a more honest and thoroughly loyal set of men did not exist in the world. In those days, I think you will agree with me, agriculture was at a very low ebb, and it was about that time—indeed rather longer since than that, for it would be about twenty-five years ago—that a small association was formed here for the purpose of promoting agriculture, its revival and development. Since that time the whole face of the country has undergone a wonderful change, and I am sure many of you will remember in what state a vast number of the farmers were, not only here, but everywhere else. The science of agriculture had not at that time been much studied, and farmers were in the habit of following the customs of their forefathers, without taking into account the best measures for improving the land, and making it

produce those beautiful crops which now can be seen in almost every direction. I mention these circumstances because I think it well that you should remember the past. In my opinion, very much credit was due to my friend Mr. ——— for the very skilful manner in which he has led the improvements at ———. I see that Mr. ——— is to return thanks, and that reminds me that the toast is not to be confined to the tenantry of the land, but is to include that part of the tenantry connected with manufactures and with scientific pursuits. It follows, therefore, that the intention of those who drew up the list of toasts was to connect the two—Agriculture and Science—as twin sisters. I trust they will always remain so, as I believe it is by the union of the two that progress is to be made in the material happiness of our fellow-creatures. In conclusion, I give the toast of “The Tenantry.”

Response.—By a Tenant-Farmer.

MR. CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN,—I rise as one of the oldest tenants on the ——— estates to respond to the toast of the “Tenants,” and it affords me great pleasure to see so many of them here on this occasion—this festive occasion, I may add—also an occasion that will happen but once—or at most twice—in an ordinary life. This is one of the happiest days of my life, and one which I have looked forward to for twenty years; and it is a source of gratification to find my anticipations realized at last. I have much pleasure in attending this festival, and I feel much obliged for the kind and flattering manner in which the tenant-farmers have been spoken of. I can but wish that we had more frequent opportunities of meeting; but as it is said that “we do not kill a pig every day,” so it may be said that we cannot have a young (lord, duke, or squire) come of age (or married) every year. Gentlemen, that we have liberal landlords in the ——— of ——— no one can deny, and under the auspices of our present ——— of ———, we can fully anticipate that he will maintain that character, and that he will be prepared to continue those good examples set before him and handed down by his ———. Again thanking you for the kind and handsome manner in which you have proposed, and the company have drunk, to the “Tenants,” I will conclude, and call on you, as one of the oldest tenants, to join me in drinking health, long life, and prosperity to ———, and ———. And, in doing so, I ask ——— to accept our hearty congratulations on his obtaining his majority. The ———s have figured so long in history, occupying therein so prominent a position, that for me to say anything about them would be quite superfluous. For ——— years my father and I have been tenants on the ——— estates, and have always been treated with kindness, and with a most liberal feeling. And I am sure that we may anticipate the same distinguishing characteristics in our present ———. The ——— has no common duties to perform as ———, as a large landed proprietor, and as the head of the family of ———. But I feel assured that ——— will not fail to add lustre to the name of ———, therefore I ask you to drink health, long life, and prosperity to the ——— of ———.

MUNICIPAL.

THE SPEECHES AND BUSINESS OF ELECTING A MAYOR.

———,—I rise to move the first resolution of the day. And that is the appointment of Mr. Alderman —— to the civic dignity of Mayor. A true friendship, and a very high respect and regard towards that gentleman, will account for my taking the prominent part I do. Mr. Alderman ——, I feel thoroughly convinced, will carry out the office of Mayor of this highly influential and prosperous ——, not only to the satisfaction of the Council, but to that of the town generally. Mr. Alderman —— will, I am sure, carry out the office with honour and dignity; for he is possessed of all the qualifications and characteristics necessary for that highly important and distinguished office—of that I venture to say there can be no dispute. The name of —— has been associated and identified with the town of —— for very many years—farther back than I can date, and when it was a mere village, afterwards a town, and then a borough; and I trust that after the proceedings of the day, it will hold its talismanic charm till —— becomes a City. It was the father of the gentleman whom I had the honour to propose as the first Mayor of this borough, and he filled the office with a great deal of satisfaction to all the inhabitants. I can but repeat that the name of —— has been identified with the progress and advancement of the town, and I feel proud and honoured in having the opportunity of nominating Mr. —— to the Chair on the present occasion. He has always been associated with works which have been for the advancement of the town's prosperity. I do not single out Mr. Alderman —— in this remark, for there are others around me who have done as he and his late and lamented father have done. But he has identified himself with the colossal works which have been performed, and were being carried out, and which contributed much to the progress of the borough—a progress which was owing to the expansive minds of the gentlemen who composed the Council. Without further preface, I beg leave to propose Mr. Alderman —— to be the Mayor.

Mr. ——,—In seconding the proposition little is left for me to say. Mr. Alderman —— always says so much, and so well, that he leaves others who follow him but little to advance. It must not be forgotten that our friend Mr. —— is not only an old inhabitant, but, like his father before him, has been for many years an

active and intelligent member of the Council. I was quite delighted when I heard that Mr. ——— had consented to be put in nomination. I have always felt a great pleasure in working with him on the ———, and the ——— Committees, and have always found him on the intelligent side, and anxious to carry out the improvements of the town. The Council may depend upon it, that in electing Mr. ——— as the Mayor, they will elect one who will do his duty, and do it well, and for the benefit of the town at large, and without reference to persons, creeds, or political bias. It is a great pleasure to see old inhabitants coming forward. The late Mayor, Mr. ———, was one, and then Mayor Mr. ——— was the representative of four or five generations, and in his successor the same thing is to be seen. Such things are pleasing, and I hope the Council will be able to find a few more native ———nians to fill the important office. Sometimes it is said that we have no men fit for the office of Mayor; but I say we have, and I hope to see the Council progress as it has done; and that, instead of its being looked down upon as a Corporation, that it will be held up as a model for other municipalities; and if it continues to go on in the same direction, it will maintain its name and position of ——— for many generations to come. It ought to be known that Mr. ——— has attended ——— meetings during the past year. And I should like to know what tradesman of this town could and would absent himself ——— times during the year from his business unless he economized his time? This, I suppose, Mr. ——— has done, and it proves him to be a thorough business man, and well qualified for the office of Mayor.

MR. ALDERMAN ———,—I cannot allow the nomination to pass without expressing my grateful feeling in being spared long enough to vote for the son of one whose friendship I can look back upon with pleasure, from the year of ——— until the time of his death. I believe the town is under a great and lasting obligation to the late Mr. ——— for many improvements, and the son, Mr. ———, has always acted in an honest, straightforward way, the fruits of which are now awarded him in being called upon by his fellow-townsmen to fill the highest office in their gift. The business habits which have brought him to occupy the Civic Chair will also enable him to discharge those duties with credit to himself, and with satisfaction to the town.

THE EX-MAYOR,—In retiring from the honourable position which I have just vacated, and into which I am about to induct my successor as chief of this municipality, I congratulate the new Mayor upon the unanimous voice with which his brother Councillors have conferred the honour upon him. I have experienced a deal of pleasure in filling that position, and having had accorded to me the generous sympathy of the Council, and I have no doubt my successor will experience the same throughout his year of office. I am sure that all parties will do their best to enable Mr. ——— to carry out the important duties in a becoming manner. The past year has

been a most important one, and many improvements are still to be carried out, such as the ———, and the ———; also the ——— will have to be done; and last, though not least, is the ———, which must prove attractive to the visitors, and be to the interest of the town.

THE (NEW) MAYOR,—I thank the Council for their unanimous vote. I thank you most sincerely for the kind expressions and good feeling that have been manifested towards me by all, particularly by Mr. Alderman ——— and Mr. ———. And I take this opportunity of thanking all the Councillors for the great many expressions of good wishes which I have received during the past week; and I congratulate those who have entered the Council Chamber for the first time to-day, feeling convinced that they will prove worthy and useful coadjutors. I ask them to discard adverse impressions which they may have obtained from anything they may have heard out of the Chamber. I know there are idle rumours abroad as to the Council Chamber being for diversion and recreation, and not a place for the transaction of public business. At a recent private dinner, I heard from one who had had a seat in the Council, that there were ladies of position who valued a ——— newspaper according to the spiciness of its report of the Council proceedings. Those ladies who valued a newspaper according as it assisted digestion at the breakfast, I rank as pagans, who look upon the Council-room as a sort of gladiatorial chamber. But I have entire confidence in the good-will of the Council; and in giving me your support, I only ask you to exercise a little self-restraint in discussing any question. Discussion we must have—discussion is the business for which we are summoned; but if each member of the Council will but have a generous forbearance for another, and is not prompt to take offence, I feel certain that a very short time will suffice to destroy all such absurd ideas. I have alluded to ———. In conclusion, I thank the Council for the kindness evinced towards me.

MR. ALDERMAN ———,—It is usual to return thanks to the retiring Mayor, and a slip of paper has just been passed to me to submit a resolution giving the best thanks of the Council to Mr. Alderman ———. I am quite sure every one will agree with me that it should be done, not because it is customary, but because it is deserved. It is true that many of us have differed with our late Mayor on several occasions, but every one will agree that he has earnestly devoted himself to the duties of the office; and although I must confine myself to the resolution, still I think I am justified in alluding to the partner—by the bye, a sleeping one—who has assisted the late Mayor, and in paying a passing tribute to the lady for the very efficient manner in which she discharged her portion of the duties, as Lady Mayoress. The present Mayor has alluded to the way in which the Council is spoken of. I know that things have been said; but those observations are made by persons who have attempted to get into the Council and have not succeeded, or by

men who would like to get in, but feel that their social position is such that they knew that the Burgesses would not return them. The men who composed the Council were earnest men, and anxious to perform their duties; and such men spoke earnestly, and one ought not to carp at a stray word or sentence let fall in the heat of debate. For my own part, I, as one of the oldest members of the Council, know that the town of ——— is very much indebted to the earnestness, energy, and ability with which its business has been conducted by them, and the length and breadth of the land might be traversed before a town was found where the general business was managed better than in the town of ———.

THE EX-MAYOR,—I thank the Council most sincerely for this special mark of kindness. I feel what has been said as a great compliment, and I hope that I may be spared many years, in connection with the municipality, to assist in carrying out works and general improvements of the town. In reference to what has been said of the Mayoress, I can only state that she has been as anxious as myself to aid and assist in carrying out the duties which have devolved on me, and the office, particularly in reference to the occasion when I had to ———. That was a source of great anxiety to her as well as myself, and the assistance which I received from her on that occasion will never be effaced from my memory. Again thanking you all for the kindness shown to me during my tenure of office, I say, "God speed you all!"

Speech on proposing a Mayor.

———,—I move the appointment of Mr. Alderman ——— to the civic dignity of Mayor for the ensuing year, having known Mr. Alderman ——— for upwards of ——— years, during which time he has always shown himself to be a consistent man of business, and the most methodical man I ever knew. You are all aware how necessary method is in carrying out the business of the Council; and I am quite sure Mr. Alderman ——— will be found fully equal to all that may be required of him in the office of Mayor. At the head for many years of a large commercial house, he has by his business habits gained the fullest esteem of a large portion of his fellow-townsmen; he has risen, as it were, from the ranks—he began at the bottom spoke of the ladder of life—he is the architect of his own fortune. And if more was required to speak to his character, his liberal and unostentatious charity would at all times point to him as a fitting man to represent this borough as its Mayor. Another qualification is that Mr. Alderman ———, having no occupation, has his whole time at his command, and can give his sole attention to the duties of Mayor of this important town. He has also, as a reward of his integrity and industry, a good long purse—a very necessary appendage to the office of Mayor; and with his long purse he possesses a most open and liberal heart; and I am

willing to guarantee that, as Mayor, he will never hesitate to put his hand into that long purse upon every occasion when necessity requires it, to support the dignity of the office. I have long known Mr. Alderman ——— as a regular attendant at the Council Board, and also at the weekly meetings of the County Hospital; and I am sure you may fairly accept him as the new Mayor, and as one taking a great interest in the local benevolent institutions of the town; and we shall all be prepared to congratulate him—as will the town at large—on his being elected Mayor for the ensuing year. I may fairly congratulate the town on its being able to secure the services of such a gentleman; and I fully believe that, when his year of office shall have expired, and we come—to use his own commercial phrase—to take stock of the past year, you will be enabled to say of Mr. Alderman ———, as he has often, during his business career said of others, that he has well balanced the account. I have much pleasure in proposing Mr. Alderman ——— to be Mayor for the ensuing year.

Toast.—"HEALTH OF THE MAYOR."—*By the Senior Alderman.*

———,—I have had for some years past the privilege—and it has devolved on me, inasmuch as it has been the privilege from time immemorial for the senior Alderman to propose the "Health of the Mayor." I have seen the greater number of my friends pass away. I am therefore able to say, not with any degree of vanity, but rather with sorrow, that I am father of the corporation. I will not, however, dwell on that subject, I know that you will do honour to the toast I shall now propose, and will not allow the feebleness of the advocate to prevent you from doing it the justice which it deserves. I have known my hon. friend, Mr. Alderman ———, who filled the chair for a long series of years, and I have witnessed his conduct in the corporation of ———, and having for ——— years enjoyed his friendship, I can say that if he but performs the onerous duties of the mayoralty as well as he has discharged the duties that have devolved upon him as an Alderman, no eulogium will be necessary to recommend him to his fellow-citizens. He represents a large and distinguished ward in this city. The zeal and ability he has brought to bear in his commercial capacity has been such as to commend him not only to the constituency of his ward, but to the whole body of his fellow-citizens. I trust that Alderman ——— will be as happy in his associations with the corporation as I have been in my years of office, for then his mayoralty will be agreeable and satisfactory. I can only reiterate the words of Alderman ———, in wishing that the Mayor may have health to undertake the important and onerous duties which will devolve upon him. I can assure him that those duties are onerous, and are important, and he must make up his mind to devote his time to their performance. It is satisfactory to know that my friend has scions about him who will relieve him of other labours, and so enable him to devote his time to the discharge of the great and important duties he is about to assume. I am satisfied that Alderman ——— will do so, not only to his own

honour, but to the credit of the city of which he is the chief magistrate. Gentlemen, "The Health of the Mayor."

Response.—By the Mayor.

——,—I thank you most sincerely for the high honour you have been pleased to confer upon me—the highest, indeed, in the power of the citizens of —— to bestow. I need scarcely assure you that it will always be my earnest desire and endeavour to discharge the duties of my position to the best of my ability, and, I trust, to your entire satisfaction. The responsibilities resting on the chief magistrate of the City of —— are by no means light, and I hope the citizens generally will assist me as far as they can in the maintenance and preservation of their rights and privileges. It will be my duty at all times to ask their aid whenever I may think it necessary, and I know I shall receive from my brethren of the Court of Aldermen and the learned Recorder advice and assistance on all occasions. But I remember also that, in the case of any one called upon to fill an office involving responsibility, health and strength are necessary. For that health and strength I must look to a higher Power to enable me to discharge my duties to my own satisfaction and to that of the citizens at large. Looking to that higher Power, I shall enter on my mayoralty with no fears and no misgivings; and, while I will make no professions for the future, I trust that at the end of my year of office I shall have so deported myself that I may present myself to you, asking for a calm and friendly judgment as to the manner in which my duties have been performed.

——,—It has been my earnest endeavour to discharge the duties of my office, and which I have now filled for one year, in a manner which should result in gaining for me the good opinion of the people of the town. This town has now become the metropolis of this part of England, and notwithstanding all that has been done, I can assure you, and whoever succeeds me will find, that there are great duties yet to perform. I feel deeply and sincerely the importance of upholding the attractions of the town, and can but hope that those attractions will continue to increase.

——,—Mr. Alderman ——, I thank you, sir, for the very graceful and complimentary manner in which you have introduced my name, and I thank you, gentlemen, for the cordial manner in which you have listened and responded to him. My hon. friend has kindly shadowed forth the responsibilities of the office which I shall have the honour to hold. Gentlemen, I am not a man to make promises. I think the citizens of —— will be very much better served by a man who does not promise anything, and who does a little, than by a man who promises a great deal and does nothing. It is impossible for a man to be always right. He must be wrong sometimes, and I fear that I can see looming in the distance faults and

shortcomings of my own. But, gentlemen, "to err is human—to forgive, divine." I will struggle to maintain unimpaired the dignity of this high and important office. If I fail, it shall be neither for want of industry nor for lack of good intention. I beg to return you my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the compliment I have just received.

GENTLEMEN,—I return you my sincere and grateful thanks for the distinguished position in which you have this day placed me. In electing me to be the chief magistrate of this great and important city, you have conferred on me the highest honour to which any citizen can aspire—one of which any man may be justly and honourably ambitious. You have realized the day-dream of my early life, and I hope I shall neither disappoint your expectations nor destroy or weaken any of those ancient rights and privileges of which this city is so justly proud. I feel the responsibilities of my position, and I hope I shall never be unmindful of the duties of a citizen. When I consider that I shall this day be proclaimed as chief magistrate of the City of ———, and when I look back to the struggles and disappointments of my early life, I can scarcely realize the fact. Gentlemen, my past career is before you. If that had not been the career of a faithful and independent citizen, I should not have been permitted to address you in my present position, and if what I have done has met your approbation, I can only say that I shall proceed in the same course, neither looking to the right hand nor to the left, but always bearing in mind that the only way to secure the respect of one's fellow-men is by pursuing a course of honour and independence, as it always has done, and I believe always will do. Gentlemen, permit me further to say that I will exercise the powers with which you have invested me with firmness and with moderation, and I hope, when I appear here again to render up the trust, you will find that the dignity and prestige of this high and honourable office has suffered nothing in my hands.

Response.

THE MAYOR ELECT,—I am so much impressed by the great honour you have done me by electing me as your Mayor, that I shall find considerable difficulty now in addressing you. The dream of my youth is this day realized—I am elected as the Mayor of my native town, an honour I will confess I had a desire to obtain; my life has been one of toil, but I am happy to say I have been amply rewarded in a pecuniary point, and the honour you have done me this day fully repays me for the cares and toils of early life. Let no one despair of being able to reach the highest municipal honour that can be obtained. What has been said of me by Mr. Alderman ———, in proposing me to this high office, has taken the wind out of my sails, and I thank him for the kind and feeling manner in which he has introduced my name to the Council; and I beg all present to accept my warmest thanks and acknowledgments for the

kindness. In return for the confidence placed in me, I can only say that, for the future, as in the past, I shall give my best attention to the duties of the office of Mayor, as I have hitherto done as one of the aldermen. I intend to give my personal daily attention during the next year to every requirement in connection with the municipal business of this town. I regard the position in which you have been pleased to place me as a high and noble one. I think it should be so regarded. I am deeply grateful for your vote of confidence. I sincerely trust that you will never have cause to regret the step you have taken to-day in electing me as the Mayor; and I promise to give my best attention to the office, and when at the end of the year I quit the chair, I hope to return the trust into your hands as pure and unsullied as I have this day received it from my predecessor. Again thanking you for the high honour you have conferred upon me, &c. &c.

"THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF ———."

Toast.—By the Chairman.

GENTLEMEN,—I shall now have the honour of proposing to you a toast scarcely requiring remarks from me, as it commends itself. It is "The Health of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough (or city) of ———." The municipal institutions of this country are amongst the most valuable part of our organization, for they create and carry into execution those principles of self-government which are the life and action of every nation. It is a great honour for any man to be selected by his fellow-countrymen to uphold voice, power, and influence over them; and those who wear the civic crown in the quality of Mayor must be men who have entitled themselves to the respect, goodwill, and confidence of their fellow-citizens. The present Mayor, and those who act with him, have well earned the dignity which has been conferred upon them, and I have much pleasure in proposing for your acceptance, "The Mayor and Corporation."

Toast. By the Chairman.

"THE CORPORATION OF ———."

GENTLEMEN,—I have to inform you that the next toast on the list is, "The Corporation of ———." It is hardly necessary to dilate upon the excellence of municipal government, as it is an institution of self-government representing severally that which the people of England are in entirety. I have had great experience in corporations of other countries, and I have travelled in France and Prussia, and have seen municipal corporations there;—corporations they call them, but Englishmen would call them "shams;"—they are not of a nature to satisfy an Englishman's ideas. Fancy our worthy Mayor being directed by the Government, as they are in France, to

return some horrid old Tory. How excessively disgusted he'd be ! I beg to say that in France the Mayor, who is called the Prefect, is liable to all that. The Government make it part of his duty. It is the same in Prussia ; but I am happy to say that here we have a Corporation whose duty it is to attend to the interests and comfort of the inhabitants, and I am sure that we are all very much obliged to the Mayor and the rest of the gentlemen who undertake that responsible duty, and who carry it out so satisfactorily.

Toast.—“THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF ———.”

GENTLEMEN,—The toast I have now to propose is the toast of the evening, but I find that I must be very brief in my observations respecting it. My duty in proposing it is a most pleasing one, and I feel sure that all present will feel an equal pleasure in responding to it. It is “The Mayor and Corporation of ———.” Some years ago, when the borough was first incorporated, very great dissatisfaction was expressed by many of the inhabitants at the new form of government, and I am free to confess that I was one among the number. I now see the mistake I made, and am willing to admit I was in error, and I am perfectly convinced that the inhabitants are now satisfied with it, and with the way in which the duties are performed by the Town Council. I need not enumerate the great improvements which have been made since the town was incorporated ; but I will say that the town has flourished under the new form of government in a manner that it had never experienced before. The Town Council has executed their duties most faithfully, with great advantage to the town, and for the benefit and comfort of its inhabitants and visitors. In making these observations, I feel bound to mention the name of Mr. Alderman ———. That gentleman has had the honour of being twice elected to the Mayoralty, —a high compliment to him,—and well has he executed the duties of the office, as you all know. Not only did he execute those duties faithfully and impartially as a public man, but his manner was at all times courteous ; and there is not the least doubt that the present Mayor will pursue the same course. Gentlemen, “The Mayor and Corporation of ———.”

Toast.—“HEALTH OF THE MAYOR OF ———.”

GENTLEMEN,—The next toast I have to propose is the health of our excellent friend, the Mayor of ———. This town owes its growth and increase of wealth to many natural advantages,—to its breezy downs, its fine drives, its bathing, and its excellent line of railway ;—but all these advantages alone were not enough to secure the prosperity of a town. It required good local administration. When I was once travelling in Spain, I was told a story of an old king, which made a great impression on me. This old

Spanish king was very patriotic, and prayed to the Virgin for all sorts of blessings for his country. He asked for fertile lands, rich mines, a splendid climate, brave men, lovely women,—and all were granted. At last, he asked also for good administration, in addition. But the Virgin said, “No; I have given you everything else, and if I were to give you good administration in addition, I should not have an angel left in heaven; they would every one of them desert their colours.” I trust ——— may be more fortunate than Spain—that she will always have a good administration, in addition to her natural advantages.

Toast.—“HEALTH OF THE MAYOR OF ———.”

GENTLEMEN,—I have to propose the health of the Mayor of ———. A great many changes have taken place during the last few years, and a great many changes have taken place in the neighbouring town of ———. I have watched the progress of ——— with great satisfaction, the reason being that I feel no jealousy in the advancement of that town, and look upon it as largely contributing to the resources of ———. I am always pleased to see an interchange of good offices between ——— and ———. To-day we are favoured with the presence of his worship the Mayor of ———. It is the first time at our festive gatherings we have been honoured with the presence of a Mayor of ———, but I hope to see many successive Mayors of ——— honour us with a visit. I was delighted that Mr. ——— had accepted the invitation, as it tended to establish a reciprocity of kindly feeling between the two towns.

Response.—By the Mayor.

MR. CHAIRMAN,—I have to thank you, sir, for the very flattering encomiums you have been pleased to bestow upon me, as the Mayor of ———, and for which I beg to tender you, and the company present, my warmest and best thanks. I am quite sure that it is the earnest wish of the inhabitants of ——— to be on friendly terms with the town of ———, because the interests of the one are identical with those of the other, and I wish the same feeling to prevail throughout the county of ———. I am very glad to have my health drunk in this manner by the inhabitants, for I claim an early association with the borough of ———, in which I received my education; I feel gratified in receiving the invitation; and I trust ——— may be attended with prosperity for many generations to come. Again thanking you for the great honour conferred upon me, in conclusion, I beg to propose ———.

Response by the Mayor or Senior Alderman.

GENTLEMEN,—It is with unmingled pleasure that I rise to thank you on behalf of the body whose health has been so enthusiastically received, and to especially thank the Chairman for the eloquent way in which he submitted the toast to you. The manner in which you responded to his call is a convincing proof that you endorse his sentiments with regard to the importance of self or local government, which is the palladium of all our liberties, and should be dearly cherished by us; having been won by the blood of our forefathers, who raised and maintained this England of ours to its present and envied position among nations. Where there are no municipal institutions, such as are to be found in this country, there can be no real freedom,—freedom of thought, and speech, and action; and it is this freedom which engenders obedience in the governed, and confidence in those who rule. The man who is not willing to obey is not fit to govern; and where can you point to a people abroad in whom their sovereign can place such reliance as is placed in the people of England? It is this confidence which exists between the Government and the governed, that not only allows the latter to make laws for themselves, but enforces a respect for them.

Gentlemen, I also thank you on another ground,—on the reception which you gave the toast. It is satisfactory evidence to us, whom you have selected as governors of this municipality, that, if we have not done all that could be done, we have gained your approbation and sanction of those acts which have been performed; and, on behalf of the Corporation, I can say with truth, that they have laboured conscientiously, and will be ever mindful of their duties and watchful over your interests.

Response by the Mayor.

GENTLEMEN,—On behalf of myself and the Corporation of ——— I fully endorse the opinion of Mr. ———, that a Corporation is the best form of local government, being that of self-government. I fully believe this to be the truth. There is much to do in the coming municipal year connected with sanitary matters, and I trust that it will be attended to with no niggard hand, for the sake alike of inhabitants and visitors. It must not be forgotten, we have no manufactures—our staple is our visitors, and for those visitors the town should be made as perfect and as attractive as municipal regulations can make it. I beg to thank those assembled for their kind feelings towards the Corporation of ———.

———,—I hope the town will foster the races, flower-shows, regattas, and other amusements . . . I am at all times pleased to meet my fellow-townsmen at social entertainments like the present, as they are calculated to establish and perpetuate that good feeling which should exist between the inhabitants and the governing body.

PAROCHIAL.

"THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS."—*By the Vice-Chairman.*

GENTLEMEN,—A toast has been placed in my hands which I have great pleasure in submitting to you; it is that of "The Health of the Board of Guardians." No body of men are more deserving our thanks than those gentlemen who voluntarily give up their time to those onerous and, not infrequently, painful duties, of attending to the wants of the poor. None but those who are acquainted with those duties can fully realize them. The qualifications for a Guardian do not consist in his paying so much "scot and lot," or in being "discreet," in the general terms of the Act of Parliament; but he must be a man of unbending resolution and determination, yet full of compassion; for it should be borne in mind, that a Guardian of the Poor has two important trusts committed to his charge—the money of the ratepayers, and the wants, even the lives, of a section, and a large section too, of his fellow-creatures. If niggardly with the one, in order to save the pockets of the ratepayers, he acts unjustly towards those who have a legitimate claim to the money for whose support it has been collected; and if he administers relief without exercising caution, he encourages imposition, whereby the ratepayer and the truly necessitous are both wronged. But in this parish I am pleased to be able to say, from having been a keen observer of how the parochial affairs are managed, that the really deserving are kindly cared for and relieved according to their several wants, while those who trade on pauperism find no sympathy. Therefore, gentlemen, I call upon you to join us in drinking to the Board of Guardians.

"DIRECTORS AND GUARDIANS OF THE POOR."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I am told that in the programme of to-day's proceedings my name is entered for a toast, and the time to give that toast has now arrived; I must therefore claim your attention for a few minutes to enable me to accomplish the object entrusted to my charge. Gentlemen, the toast I have to propose is the "Directors and Guardians of the Poor," and amongst the many social offices that civilization has compelled us to assume, I know of none more onerous than that of a Guardian of the Poor. Of course, if there were no poor, no Guardians would be needed;

but, as the highest authority has said, "The poor ye shall have always with you," as a sequence, we must always have Guardians. Now this is an office but few would seek; in the first place, its unthankfulness, for as a rule the poor are not grateful; secondly, because the faithful discharge of the duties exacts a vast amount of time that could much more advantageously be bestowed in business. Still, I say it with pride, we can find men who, notwithstanding these objections, faithfully and honestly discharge their duties with a perfect abnegation of self; such men, I say, deserve our highest admiration and praise; such men it is who reflect credit on a town, and add to the greatness of the nation. Gentlemen, the functions of a Guardian of the Poor comprise also the guardianship of the poor-rates; in this all are interested, and to see that, whilst the infirm and indigent are properly cared for, no imposition shall be practised, demands no mean degree of intelligence and tact. That intelligence and that tact, I am bold to say, is nobly displayed by the gentlemen to whom my toast alludes, who now enjoy the confidence of the ratepayers and hold the office of Directors and Guardians, and to that body our thanks are due, and are hereby given, with the hope that in the mysterious dispensations of Providence it may never be their lot to seek the aid thus provided for the poor; but, if it must be so, that they may be under a board of Guardians as just and merciful as in their prosperity they were themselves. Gentlemen, "The Directors and Guardians of the Poor."

GENTLEMEN,—The next toast I have to submit to your notice is in reference to a body of gentlemen who have an important and difficult duty to perform, and one at all times requiring a vast amount of discrimination. I refer to the "thirty wise and discreet" inhabitants who are elected every year to act as the Directors and Guardians of the Poor. The amount of labour they have to perform is very great, and the time they have to devote to carrying out the duties appertaining to the office is almost unknown but to those who have belonged to that body. The office of a Director and Guardian can only be carried out properly by those persons who have a good deal of time to spare, and are willing to give it for the benefit of their fellow-townsmen and poorer brethren. To those gentlemen who do give their time to the office, we should be ever ready to acknowledge the great obligation that we are under to them. I therefore propose to you "The Directors and Guardians."

Response.—By a Member of the Board.

"THE DIRECTORS AND GUARDIANS."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—As a Member of the Board of Directors and Guardians of this town, I beg to acknowledge the toast you have been pleased to propose and drink, and it affords me a great deal of pleasure in having an opportunity of doing so. The office of a Director and Guardian is one of great

responsibility, inasmuch as they have to jealously watch the interests of the ratepayers to see that they are not imposed upon by the worthless and indolent, at the same time to take care that the deserving poor are sufficiently relieved of their present wants, and, when possible, to put them in such a position that they may not become permanent paupers. Many deserving persons are temporarily placed in circumstances over which they have had no control, and have to apply for parochial relief; it is then the duty of the Guardians to administer to the wants of such applicants with discretion, and with the utmost liberality consistent with the nature of the case. On behalf of the Directors and Guardians, I thank you.

Response.—By a Member of the Board of Directors and Guardians.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I beg to thank you very sincerely for the kind way in which my friend Mr. ——— has proposed my name, and for the friendly and cordial manner in which you have received it. I am not, gentlemen, so vain and so conceited as to suppose that it is owing to any merits of my own that I have been received here so kindly to-night. On the contrary, I think it is to your partiality, and to your belief that I have endeavoured in the several positions which I have held in this town, to discharge faithfully the duties that belong to me as a Parishioner, a Citizen, a Churchwarden, Overseer, and a Director and Guardian of the Poor,—that it is to this I owe your kind reception. I have lived amongst you for many years, unknown to the great bulk of the people of ———, endeavouring, in a quiet manner, to perform certain duties which I felt that my leisure and my time enabled me to discharge, towards forwarding the improvement and the relief of those of my poorer and needier fellow-citizens. And it was not till after I had been a resident in your town for some time that I was called from private life to take a part in the duties and responsibilities of public life. It was not till I had lived here for some years that that event befell me. I would have preferred—I candidly confess to you—to have remained within that privacy than to have obtruded myself in public life, but a large number of my fellow-townsmen urged me from time to time to come forward, thinking I could serve this parish and the public at large by taking a more active part in the concerns of the town. I did not feel myself at liberty when these appeals were made to me to refuse the task which my fellow-townsmen were willing to place on my shoulders, and therefore it is that I have the honour of standing before you to-night as one of your representatives at the Board of Guardians. In that place I have endeavoured to discharge, faithfully and fearlessly, the duties appertaining to my position, and that I have not altogether failed let the meeting of to-night attest. Let me, however, admit that I have not done all that I could have wished to have done. But when you, representing this large parish, sent me into the arena of the Directors and Guardians' room, I felt that the way in which a man might have acted as a citizen was no test of how he might succeed in the Board Room.

But I went there strong in my own sincerity of purpose. I went there determined, at all events, that the representation of a large town like this should not suffer in my hands, either from a want of dignity or a want of utility. And I went there in the knowledge that I must make myself acquainted with the feelings and the atmosphere of the assembly in which I was placed. I went there with no vain overweening notions of myself. I knew there were men in that Board who were in all respects my equals—in most respects my superiors—in judgment, in knowledge, in intellect. And I knew it was not my business to thrust myself before that Board; if I had attempted to make it my business to do so I must have failed, and ensured present ridicule and future failure. I went there with my eyes and ears open, but with my mouth shut. Still, I did feel that I was striving to gain a position and a standing which, in the person of myself, should reflect credit on the parishioners of the town of ———. I have said that my thanks are due to you for the kind manner in which you have received me to-night; they are also due to you for the opportunity you have thus afforded me of stating to you some few of my past acts and past votes at the Board, and also of telling you what is to be my future line of conduct. And first, of all, I will go to that measure which has elicited so large an amount of feeling and of opinion during the last few weeks—I allude to Mr. ———'s propositions,—I say that it was "a one-barrelled measure," having only one intention in it—the increase of the poor-rates. I voted against that measure, I voted against it last year, and I did so this year, and I am going to explain to you why I did so. Now, allow me to say this, before I go into that subject. I stand here to-night by the kindness of the parishioners of ———, to put before them my ideas and opinions; if you believe those ideas and opinions to be wrong, the time is close at hand when you can vindicate your ideas and your opinions. I do not want to sail under false colours. Rather be it to me to haul down my flag with honour, than to keep it flying under false pretences. To me, Gentlemen, the issue is not so important; I can retire from public life, and enjoy the private pursuits I have been accustomed to; and, if thrown out, I can fall back on them without feeling one shade of resentment, without feeling one pang of regret. Therefore, I say, it is better that the Parish should understand me, and that I should understand the Parish. I voted against Mr. ———'s one-barrelled affair, and if you again return me I should do the same. But remember, as I said in the year 186—, so I say now in the year 186—, I am not opposed to a fair, a true, and an honest Removable Bill. Do not let my opponents take advantage of my words; they are exceedingly clever and adroit, but their cleverness sometimes becomes folly, and their adroitness cunning. I say that, as I was in 186—, so now am I an advocate for a fair, a true, and honest Removable Bill. Do you ask me to pledge myself to details? Details! Where is the party that is agreed on details? But I was in favour of the Union Chargeability Clause, and I appeal to my friend, Mr. ——— (who is one of the Guardians of the Poor), whether that is not a measure for the relief of the poor? Hitherto you have had your close parishes trying to oust the poor people therefrom, and to prevent

others from coming into them. Gentlemen, I was one of those who gave to that measure the strongest support, believing that it would tend to the happiness of the poorer classes. If I should have the honour of being again returned to the Board of Guardians as your representative, I should go with a determination to do my duty,—with a determination to obtain a settlement of this vexed question, and, if there were no other solution of it to be gained, I would even gain it at the risk of ———. I feel that in doing this I should be adopting the consistent line of politics,—that I should be doing that which I believe to be for the ultimate benefit and welfare of the Poor of England. If you can find me out a more simple, a more efficacious plan, I am quite willing to adopt it. I have voted in every measure for the strictest economy, and I believe that the time must speedily come when a reduction of our expenditure will take place. I shall now pass on to the event coming on within the next two or three months, and say at once it is my intention again to solicit the suffrages of the parish of ———. As I said in 186—, so I said in 186—, and so I say in 186—, my motto will be “Economy and Justice!” I will not be one of those who will give up to party what was meant for mankind at large, and it is some satisfaction for me to know that during the last week or ten days Mr. ———, the extreme advanced Member of the ——— party, has advanced that motto. What I said in 186—, and what a number of persons objected to at that time, is now proclaimed from the high estate of ——— itself as the true principle upon which every Liberal Guardian is to go to the Board-room. I hope they will stick to their colours. I do not think they will; party spirit runs so high that I do not think they will have strength to resist the temptation; but, if they do so, I shall be glad to meet them with the same motto, but with only this distinction, that mine was written in 186—, theirs in 186—. Well, Gentlemen, I must draw to a close. I had many other things to say, but I fear I shall be tedious, and it is wearing into the night. I shall simply say this,—if you choose to elect me again, I will do in the future as I have done in the past. Gentlemen, if you do not choose to elect me again, I can retire into private life, and I do not suppose I shall be much less happy. But there is one thing which, whether beaten or not, you will be able to say, and that is that your present Member of the Board of Guardians, and future candidate, has violated no pledges, falsified no hopes, and broken no promises; that he has not by clap-trap arguments, or insincere protestations of services, sought to gain a fleeting popularity; but that he has, on the other hand, by acting independently, by following a straightforward line of conduct, and by strict attention to his duties, endeavoured, not to gain this fleeting popularity, but the calm, steady, and steadfast respect of those whose esteem and respect is alone worth having. Gentlemen, on behalf of the Directors and Guardians of ——— and myself, I thank you.

“Affliction's sons are brothers in distress,
A brother to relieve, how exquisite the bliss.”

“To be poor, and to seem poor, is a certain method
Never to rise.”

TOWN AND TRADE OF ———.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

“THE TOWN AND TRADE OF ———.”

GENTLEMEN,—The next toast is one in which we are all more or less interested, inasmuch as we in a great measure derive our existence from the trade of the town; in point of fact, the prosperity of ——— is our prosperity, and its success our success. Who, then, should be more desirous that the Town and Trade of ——— should continue to prosper than the inhabitants thereof? I feel, then, strongly fortified in my position, having the assurance of a hearty response from all, and knowing that it will be only necessary to mention my toast. I charge you, then, Gentlemen, to fill high and drain the cup to “The Town and Trade of ———.”

Toast.—By the Vice-Chairman.

“THE TOWN AND TRADE OF ———.”

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—The next toast has fallen to my lot, and, without being guilty of hypocrisy, “I wish it had been placed in abler hands.” The toast which I have to propose, and which I am sure will meet your hearty approval, is “The Town and Trade of ———.” For many years past I have been in the habit of coming here annually, and am therefore cognizant of the many improvements which have been made, not only in the town, but in the business premises of several of the tradesmen; and these are sufficiently indicative of its and their prosperity. May both continue to flourish;—in fact, one cannot advance without the other; and in giving the toast to you I shall couple with it the name of Mr. ———.

Toast.—By a Resident.

“THE TOWN AND TRADE OF ———.”

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I have had a toast placed in my hands, which I shall have the honour of proposing. It is “The Town and Trade of ———.” I consider that a proud posi-

tion has been conceded to me in entrusting me with that toast. I sincerely hope that prosperity will attend the Town and Trade of ———. In former years I was in the habit of visiting the town of ———, and with the greatest possible delight and pleasure, as I was always sure of meeting my old friends of this place;—kind and true friends many—very many, I am happy to say—have proved themselves to be,—

“A generous friendship no cold medium knows,
Burns with one love, with one resentment glows;
One should our interests and our passions be,
My friend must hate the man that injures me.”

I have travelled in the most beautiful parts of the world, but I have always returned to this town with the utmost amount of pleasure. I have had a great deal to do with the tradesmen of ———, and I have always found them the most upright men I ever had business transactions with in my life. This town is visited by everybody. There can never be another ———, owing to its close proximity to the metropolis, and affording, as it does, such ample accommodation for a large number of visitors. I have always said that, if it should please Providence to place me in easy circumstances, ——— would be the place I should select for my permanent residence. And I am happy to say that fortune has smiled upon me, and I was only too happy to reside among you and to be of any service I could in your local government. I cannot forbear to allude to the excellent set of men I find at the Board of Guardians, a member of which Board the Vestry have done me the honour of electing me to since my final retirement from actual business pursuits. The members of that Board are equal to any set of men in the kingdom. I say that in all sincerity. This town has many real natural advantages, and I trust that it will continue to prosper, that it will keep pace with the modern improvements of the age, and never be found to be a day's march behind. Gentlemen, for your patient hearing I thank you, and will conclude my remarks by giving you, “The Town and Trade of ———.”

Response.

MR. CHAIRMAN,—I rise to respond to the toast, and I beg to thank Mr. ——— for the handsome manner he has spoken of the Town and Trade of ———. I may say that, as far as the trade of ——— is concerned, we endeavour to uphold that straightforward position to which Mr. ——— has alluded. I may say that I have much to be thankful for to the Town of ———; I commenced my business life in the town, and success has crowned my exertions, therefore I thank you all heartily and most sincerely; Mr. ——— for proposing the toast, and the company generally for the manner in which they have drunk to the success of “The Town and Trade of ———.”

Response.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I thank you for the hearty manner in which the toast was drunk, but I am not so much obliged to my friend Mr. ——— for naming me in connection with it. Mr. ——— would have done more justice to it, and was more entitled to the honour of being coupled with it. I can, however, tell the gentleman who submitted the toast, that the tradesmen of this town have only done what it was their duty to do,—improve the town, and make it more acceptable and more enjoyable for those who kindly favour us with their presence and patronage. Expenditure in this direction is for the mutual advantage of both parties; and to those of my fellow-townsmen whom I see around me, and who have not yet had so much to do with the world as I have, I would say,—"Always throw a sprat a catch a mackerel." You may depend upon it our visitors will not come to us if we do not make it worth their while coming; and without them what would the Town and Trade be? Gentlemen, I thank you for the toast.

GENTLEMEN,—I fully appreciate the compliment paid me in associating my name with the toast of "The Town and Trade of ———," and in making me, on this occasion, the mouthpiece of so important a body as the Trade of this large and constantly increasing town. The toast is one with which all present can sympathize, seeing that we are all more or less concerned in promoting the prosperity of the town we live in, in which many of us were born, and which many have adopted on account of its salubrity or its commercial advantages. This present gathering is, I take it, in one sense, an earnest of our desire to promote the prosperity of ———, for I believe that it will be a grand stroke for the benefit of the town when the day shall come in which we shall reckon Mr. ——— as one of our representatives. I have no hesitation whatever in expressing my belief that the town has suffered and is still suffering from the non-local, non-sympathetic character of the representatives that have been *imposed* upon it. I say *imposed*, because it is apparent that the position attained by the present representatives is mainly attributable to personal interests and the operation of a spirit of cliquism, at all times detestable, but lately in this borough altogether insupportable. Our mis-representatives are very good men, perhaps, in their proper spheres, but they are not "the men for ———." Mr. ——— is the "coming man." He offers to the town precisely what the town requires—a representative who shall reflect on the town the lustre of his name; one who lives amongst us and does not come here periodically, attracted by the loaves and fishes of office; one who shall take an interest in our local affairs, and not merely blindly accept instructions from a clique, but himself take the lead, the initiative, in movements for the welfare of the town, as well as secure the fitting representation of our local interests in Parliament. This is what I take to be a true representative, and we have the full promise of such a man in Mr. ———. Those acquainted with his antecedents cannot fail to have marked

that Mr. ——— is one of those representative men—those self-made men—who are the glory of the land, and who shed a lustre of progress, improvement, and benevolence wherever they cast their lot. Therefore, those interested in the welfare of ———, and the prosperity of its trade, naturally look to Mr. ——— as the co-adjutor, the mouthpiece they require to consolidate its advantages. We have had handed down to us by our forefathers this beautiful town as a kind of heritage: they laboured, and we have entered into their labours. It is for us to follow their example, and in this our day to do our best to advance the common interests of the town.

———,—Commerce tends to wear off those prejudices which maintain distinctions and animosity between nations. It softens and polishes the manners of men. It unites them by one of the strongest of all ties—the desire of supplying their mutual wants. It disposes them to peace, by establishing in every state an order of citizens bound by their interest to be the guardians of public tranquillity. As soon as the commercial spirit acquires vigour, and begins to gain an ascendant in any society, we discern a new genius in its policy, its alliances, its wars, and its negotiations.

———,—I am wonderfully delighted to see a body of men thriving in their own fortunes, and at the same time promoting the public stock; or, in other words, raising estates for their own families, by bringing into their country whatever is wanting, and carrying out of it whatever is superfluous. Nature seems to have taken particular care to disseminate her blessings among the different regions of the world, with an eye to their mutual intercourse and traffic among mankind, that the nations of the several parts of the globe might have a kind of dependence upon one another, and be united together by their common interest.

May trade and manufactures be unrestrained by the fetters of monopoly.

"The Town and Trade of ———," may its prosperity become as unbounded as its resources and industry.

RAILWAY.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

"THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE ——— RAILWAY.

GENTLEMEN,—The next toast on my programme is "The Directors and Officers of the ——— Railway,"—and it is a toast that I have much pleasure in proposing to you. These are the days of steam and progress. The days of coaching are now numbered with the past. A great change has come over the spirit of the dream since our boyhood; many present will remember that it took our coaches ——— hours to reach the metropolis, and at a cost of three times the amount of money we now pay to go the same distance by railway; also about six times the amount of time. In the days of our fathers, to journey to London was considered a great event in a man's life, and required many grave considerations before venturing on such a perilous undertaking. For weeks prior the whole household was in a state of disorder; careful wives and far-seeing mothers-in-law thought it prudent that the unhappy wight who had to undertake the journey to town should previously go to the solicitor's and make his will. The old family blunderbuss had to be cleaned up, its lock greased, its flint reset; there was a knitting of hose in the shape of long stockings and warm night-caps. Bank-notes were "herring-boned" into the breech of his unmentionables, guineas were ingeniously covered with cloth to look like buttons, and sewn on various parts of his habiliments, so as to trick and deceive the Dick Turpins, Jerry Abershaws, Claude Duvals, and other gentlemen highwaymen of the road. The adventurous man had presents made to him by his friends and neighbours, consisting of plum and seed-cake, bottles of home-made wine, huge slices of gingerbread, a bottle or two of Hollands, and five or six comforters to keep out the cold. He was recommended to keep his courage up and his powder dry. He spent the night previous to his journey in the same manner in which we read of criminals doing,—that is, in writing letters to his friends and relations. In the morning he took an affectionate farewell of his family, and was then launched ——— on the road—and there for the present we will leave him. But, gentlemen, those days and times have passed away as belonging to a by-gone state of manners and civilization. We now travel, think, and do everything faster than was done of yore. These are the days of steam and railways;

in fact, this has been aptly termed the iron age. What should we do now without railroads? The question is by far too gigantic and speculative to go into to-night, and had therefore better be deferred and looked into this day six months, as the Parliamentary people say. In the meantime, we will admit the fact of the railway, and of its directors and officers, whose health I am about to propose to you. This town is not only very fortunate in having a good and efficient railway, with able directors, but it has also civil and obliging officers, who are at all times ready and willing to meet any question that may arise as to public or private convenience. Of course, there always were, and ever will be, a host of grumblers, who are always complaining about the railway not doing this or that, or not putting on a train to So-and-so just at the identical time that they, the grumblers, deem the proper time, and so forth. But I am happy to state that I have always found the officers of our railway ever ready and willing to listen to any want felt to be required for the general public convenience. In doing business with a railway official you must have a real grievance—not an imaginary one. Call at his place of business in business hours, transact your business in a business-like manner, then go about your business, to enable the railway man of business to transact his portion of business in a business-like manner.

It does not take a very old man to remember when the outside passengers, and even the gentlemen inside an ordinary stage-coach, were occasionally requested to get down and walk up a mile or two of hill, or several miles ankle-deep in sand. It is quite certain that the general public will be eager for increased accommodation in whatever form it may present itself. The general public is Utopian in its ideas, and thinks it allowable to anticipate a Millennium as far as art can do it. Any Londoner, of course, would like to get over fifty, sixty, or even a hundred miles well within the hour. He would like never to lose more than a quarter of an hour by accidentally missing a train. He would like to be able to go the whole way, or half, or a quarter of the way, at the same speed. He would like to go early or late. He would like to have all this done for him at an imperceptible cost. He would not at all object to vary the route occasionally, just for a change of ideas. Are these wishes all so utterly unreasonable? It is barely forty years since a committee of the House of Commons laughed in the face of an engineer who thought it possible passengers might one day be carried twenty miles an hour, and asked what would become of them if a cow strayed on the rails. Even now, it must be admitted, that what are called the "omnibus trains" on the suburban lines are very trying to the temper of a man whose time is worth something. However, it avails not either to censure or to apologize for the public. It has its wants, and it will have its way if it can. It finds ready caterers, or, at least, very large promisers, in the speculative class. It has only to avow any craving at all within the bounds of possibility, and there are those who will satisfy it, at any cost, if they can only saddle that cost upon others. All this is only part of our social system and our national character. We must be taken as we are, with all our faults, and without warranty.

Railways afford us many opportunities of visiting distant parts at a very moderate cost; and, whether looked at from a business point of view, or from one of pleasure, are a great boon to a numerous class of persons.

Railways annihilate space; it is no longer, How many miles is it to So-and-so?—but it is, How many hours or minutes is it? Persons residing at any distance from the great metropolis can have their newspapers and letters on their breakfast-tables, where formerly they had to wait until the next day before they could have them delivered to them.

Railways enable many hundreds of persons to reside in the country, and come to the town during the business hours of the day. Such an arrangement is conducive to health and recreation. It is a Season Ticket *v.* The Doctor. In short, from whatever point you view railways, the public have and will continue to derive, from time to time, many real advantages from them.

The town and inhabitants of ——— are much indebted to the indefatigable zeal at all times displayed by Mr. ———, of the ——— department. As a station-master, Mr. ——— is much respected by all persons having business or seeking pleasure on the line.

Gentlemen,—During my two years of office as Mayor, I was several times in communication with the railway authorities, and can state that they assisted me most materially in all that pertained to the benefit of the town, especially in obtaining the ———. I can also say that many of the officers assist our local charities from their private purse, independently of the Company.

Gentlemen,—I beg to propose “The Directors and Officers of the ——— Railway,” coupling that toast with the name of Mr. ———, of the ——— Department.

Toast by a Tradesman.

“THE ——— RAILWAY AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.”

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—The “Town and Trade” has been given and responded to, but what, I ask you, would either be without the Railway? I will not speak of the identical interests of a town and its railway—they are patent and understood by all; and every one has for a long time looked upon the discovery of steam as a propelling power to be the great civilizer of the world—the medium of communication between the antipodes—the annihilator of space, as the electric telegraph is the annihilator of time. I will not, I say, dwell upon these. But what would all these great benefits be without proper management? I can safely say that there is no better conducted line in the kingdom than the ——— Railway; therefore our thanks are justly due to the Board of Directors and their Officers. As “good wine needs no bush,” I at once call upon you, gentlemen, to drink their healths in bumpers.

Toast.—"THE DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE ———
RAILWAY."

GENTLEMEN,—The next toast I shall present to your notice will be "The Directors and Officers of the ——— Railway," and in so doing I can but allude to the great progress which the Railway has made during the last few years. The Company are now building almost a new terminus, entirely, I believe, for the convenience of the people of this town. Whenever anything arose which would be an advantage to the town, the Railway Company always contributed most liberally.

Response.

GENTLEMEN,—I believe there is a very cordial feeling of respect and confidence between the town of ——— and the Railway Company. I have had the pleasure of attending these meetings for some years, and it has generally been admitted as a fact that the interests of the Railway and of the town are identical. No doubt that it is so, and it should follow that the town and the railway should at all times concur in promoting those interests.

GENTLEMEN,—In the absence of ———, I beg to thank you for the very handsome manner in which the last toast was responded to. Such a recognition of our services is the more gracious because we are but servants of the public, whose interests the Board make a point of studying; for whatever benefits the one results to the advantage of the other. I hope I can also say, without being deemed egotistical, that they possess a staff of officials second to none in efficiency,—a fact which is attributable to the liberality received at the hands of their employers.

I'll put a girdle round about the earth
In forty minutes.

CONSTABULARY

Toast.—By the Chairman.

“THE CONSTABULARY OF ———.”

GENTLEMEN,—Again I must ask you to join me in another toast, and this time to a body of men who have rendered, and still are rendering, essential service to the country—I mean the ——— Constabulary. It has been said there is no good without its relative evil; but this much may be said of the ——— Constabulary—they do not create the evil, but strive to suppress it. It is true that if no evil existed in the world, the office of a police constable would be the truest exposition of a sinecure; but we know evil does exist, and, in order to keep this evil somewhat under control, no better means have yet been devised than the Police Force; and to that body in general, and the Constabulary of ——— in particular, are we indebted for the quiet and safety in which we live. It is with feelings of pleasure, then, I propose to you “The Constabulary of ———.”

Quoth Hudibras, “Friend Ralph, thou hast
Out-run the constable at last,”

Toast.—By the Chairman.

“THE CONSTABULARY FORCE OF ———.”

GENTLEMEN,—The Army and Navy and Volunteers have received full justice at your hands, and they deserve all that has been said of them; but there is another force which does not at all times have the compliment paid them at such gatherings as this—I mean the Constabulary Force; and I can with truth say that our own is composed of men who perform their duties with the greatest satisfaction to all classes but one—I mean those vultures of society who prey upon the property of their neighbours. The Constabulary Force, the civil arm of the law, is as much entitled to our thanks as the Military or Naval. Their deeds may not be so brilliant, because of a different character; but they are at times exposed to much danger, and endure great hardships, especially in the winter months of the year, when they not only run the risk of the deadly blow from the burglar or garotter—species of the genus homo from which this

town is happily free—but their duties invite the attack of that more invidious and stealthy enemy, consumption; and these risks they run that we may sleep in safety. In calling upon you, then, to drink to the health of "The Constabulary Force," I shall couple with it the name of Mr. ———, Chief Officer of the ——— Police.

Response.—By the Chief Constable of———.

GENTLEMEN,—I thank you for this kind acknowledgment of our services, and will not detain you by any observations beyond referring to one remark of the gentleman who proposed the toast. He said this town was happily free from the depredations committed by the burglar and garotter. And so it is; but it is not because they have not visited us, but because, acting upon the principle that "prevention is better than cure," whenever a suspicious character enters the town he is closely watched; and they, not liking the attentions paid by the "young man dressed in blue," quickly migrate to other places, where there is a clearer field for their operations. It is a fact not generally understood, that the thieves of this country are the best judges of the efficiency of a police force; and I doubt not whether a report from them would not be more serviceable than those of the Government inspector. I say this in all due respect, because that gentleman investigates only the "internal economy"—as our military friends term it—of the force; and he cannot have the opportunity of practically witnessing the aptitude of a man for detecting and capturing a thief. With these remarks, gentlemen, I return you my most sincere thanks for the honour you have done that service, of which I am but so humble a member.

Speech.—By Chief Constable of———, responding to the Toast of The Constabulary.

MR. CHAIRMAN, VICE, AND GENTLEMEN,—I feel that I cannot let the toast of "The Constabulary of———" pass by in silence, although I rise with some amount of diffidence to respond to it. My avocation affords me but few opportunities for speech-making, at which I am at the best of times but a poor hand; but, as I have before observed, I cannot let this opportunity pass by without saying a few words. I am pleased to hear from your Chairman that the conduct of the Constabulary of——— has merited your esteem and approbation. The police have a very difficult task to play, and it is next to an impossibility to be enabled to please everybody; our duty is stern, and has to be carried out without affection or favour to any class of individuals. When duty calls, it is the business of the police to obey. In preventing crime, or detecting it after it has been perpetrated, requires at times great skill and energy. And I believe that the police of this country numbers amongst its

officers and men an immense amount of talent and general efficiency, which will bear the test of comparison with any other nation. Great improvements have been introduced into the system during the past quarter of a century, and will continue to be so. When we throw ourselves back but a comparatively few years to the times of the old watchmen—the Old Charlies, as they were termed in the days when Tom and Jerry flourished—the great improvements that have taken place since then stand out boldly. Men who now enter the police as officers are expected to be of good education—very different to the watchmen of old. Our immortal Shakespeare has left us the model of the watchmen of former days in the person of one Dogberry, who informs us that “Our watch, sir, have, indeed, comprehended two auspicious persons.” With all the difficulties that arise in carrying out the regulations of the police for the maintenance of peace and good order, we are pleased to hear that we have given satisfaction. The enthusiastic manner in which the toast was received by you this evening is very flattering to us, and I shall not fail to inform my fellow-officers and men of the manner in which we were spoken of by the worthy Chairman of this evening. I have had the honour to belong to the ——— Constabulary for ——— years. During the whole of that time I have met with the greatest possible respect from the gentry around.

I have had the honour of being Chief Constable of the ——— Police for ——— years, and I am proud and happy to inform you that I rose from the ranks. I entered the ——— Police in the year ——— as an ordinary constable, and have been inspector, superintendent, and for ——— years the Chief Officer; and, from the numerous panegyrics that are continually passed upon my conduct at social gatherings akin to the present, I cannot but regard them as feeling confident that I have carried out my arduous duties to your entire satisfaction. I am very happy to inform you that crime has very much diminished, not only in my district, but all over the country; as, according to statistics presented at the last Quarter Sessions, there had been a diminution of ——— per cent. . . .

For the kind manner in which you have proposed my health I have to thank you most heartily—most cordially—most sincerely.

THE LADIES.

Toast.—"THE LADIES."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—A pleasing task has been deputed to me—it is to propose the health of "The Ladies,"—and surely no more delightful task can be imposed on any man. The only drawback I feel in the matter is the assurance of my own incompetency, and that is increased when I feel how immeasurably they are above us in all that elevates and ennobles our nature. Burns must have been imbued with this spirit when he wrote the lines,—

Her 'prentice han' she tried on man,
And then she made the lasses O!

Well, we all know the value of the Ladies, and how essential they are to our happiness. Who is there that cannot remember gratefully the home of his childhood, the tender care of his mother, the undisguised love of his sister, and the affection of both—a love and affection so pure that neither time nor space can lessen it, that sin even cannot quench, nor disgrace obliterate? There is surely something holy in this—something that whispers of heaven, and pours its balmy influence over the rugged nature of man—that bids us pause in our forward course, and listen to warnings breathed from bosoms warmed with the purest love vouchsafed to man on earth. Or, when racked by pain, we lay the weary head upon the pillow in helpless exhaustion, what hand but woman's can smooth that pillow, what foot so light as hers, moving about in earnest anticipation of our every wish, gliding like an angel to supply our wants as quickly as they arise, ever constant, never tiring, but with unwearied zeal watching, watching, watching—and oh, the music of her silver voice! Who is there that has recovered from a bed of sickness and forgotten the melody of the voice of her that soothed him in his anguish? And now, whilst we are here in health, enjoying the pleasures of this night, let us not forget the Ladies, but show them that at least we can be grateful. "To the Health of the Ladies."

GENTLEMEN,—The toast which I have had placed in my hands is one that is often given with a formality and a levity that does an injustice to its claims upon us, the "lords of creation," as we are pleased to pompously style ourselves. But our position would be a most pitiable and helpless one without the Ladies; and I hope to see the time when they will be raised to that social position which they ought to occupy on such occasions as this. Sharing as they do our troubles, and ministering to our afflictions they ought to be partici-

pators in our pleasures; for woman was made to be the companion of man, and is in every respect but one his equal: that exception being her physical capacity. This is her only inferiority, and the protection which is in consequence her right, is too frequently construed to mean subjection, and hence the unimportant position which she occupies in relation to man in society in this country, and in others places upon her the ban of slavery. Nearly all of us have experienced and remember a mother's watchful care, and we know the power and sincerity of a sister's love, and many of us can testify to a wife's affection; and upon these grounds alone I ask you to drink to the health of "The Ladies." Did time permit, I could detail many instances of their heroism, devotion to man, and wisdom,—as instanced even by the names of Grace Darling, Florence Nightingale, and our beloved Queen,—but I must conclude, by calling upon you to drink the toast, and ask our young friend, Mr. —, to respond to it.

Response.—By a Bachelor.

GENTLEMEN,—Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to acknowledge, on behalf of the ladies, the honour which you have done them, and which is justly their due; but though I cannot speak of them with the experience of the gentleman who proposed the toast, I have felt the power of both a mother's and a sister's love; and I trust, some day, to know what the affection of a wife is like. The proposer of the toast has gone so fully into the merits of the ladies, that any observations I could make would be but travelling over the same ground. Therefore I must content myself by tendering you my heartfelt thanks for the manner in which you received the toast.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in rising to acknowledge the toast of "The Ladies," which has been proposed to you by Mr. —. Of woman's worth every poet in every clime has written and sung, so that little need be said by me on this occasion, for in whatever phase of life we behold the ladies,—whether as sisters, mothers, wives, or widows,—they shed lustre around the circle they are destined to occupy, and from the cradle to the grave may be truly said to be men's best companions. There are times and places when stern custom exacts—and who denies her sway?—that ladies are not permitted to be present, to speak for themselves; that task has therefore devolved on me, and although I feel that I cannot do justice to their many virtues, I am proud to have an opportunity of making the attempt, however feeble. Therefore, gentlemen, on behalf of the ladies, whom you have "toasted" and pledged, I thank you, and will conclude in the words of Otway, who has sung,—

Oh, woman! lovely woman! Nature made thee
To temper man—we had been brutes without you!
Angels are painted fair to look like you;
There's in you all that we believe of heaven,
Amazing brightness, purity, and truth,
Eternal joy, and everlasting love.

THE PRESS.

Toast.—“THE PRESS.”—By the Chairman.

GENTLEMEN,—I rise for the purpose of proposing to your notice a toast which I am sure you will all heartily respond to,—it is to the free, unfettered “Press of England.” Gentlemen, the mighty power for good or evil that this engine possesses is so extensive that it has been called the “fourth estate;” and looking around us and seeing the vast improvements in our social condition that owe their origin to the press, we can justly endorse the saying,—“King, Lords, and Commons have each their influence and their sphere of action, but to a free and enlightened press only is it given to be the palladium of a people’s liberty.” Let us open the page of history and read the lesson of the past, and the tale we shall learn from all nations and peoples will be, that in proportion to the measure of pure and truthful literature disseminated amongst them, so did they rise in their social condition, and shake off the manacles of superstition and tyranny;—the very essence of tyranny is ignorance, as truly as liberty is the result of knowledge. Returning then to more recent times, let us summon to our remembrance the long list of privileges enjoyed by us that to our grandfathers were a sealed book. They deserved as much liberty then as we have now; they could as keenly appreciate the mighty benefits to accrue from the liberty of the press as we, and yet it was denied them; ought we not, then, at all times when opportunity offers, to show our gratitude to an institution that has wrought so much in our behalf, and to which we owe our present exalted prosperity—a prosperity unparalleled in the annals of any country. Gentlemen, “The Press of England,” coupled with the name of Mr. ———.

Toast.—“THE PRESS.”

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—Having been requested to submit to you the next toast, that of “The Press,” I do so with unmingled gratification; and knowing full well that you all appreciate what the “fourth estate” has done for the people of this country, I propose it with the full assurance that it will meet with a most cordial reception. Far greater conquests have been made with the pen than with the sword, and the utility is in proportion as its power is wielded for good or evil; and we ought not to feel surprised at the manner in which it is sometimes “gagged” in countries less free and enlightened than this happy island of ours, seeing the immense influence which it has with a people, and the direction which is sometimes given to that influence—inflaming the discontented and poisoning the minds of the loyal. This, I am happy to say, is not the policy of the Press of England, and since the removal of those duties which were rightly called “taxes upon knowledge,” a still

more healthy tone has been given to the literature of this country, and the newspaper, instead of being the luxury of the rich, has become the daily necessity of the middle and lower classes. I need not dwell upon the rapid strides which have been made in the art of printing from the day when Caxton submitted his first proof sheet to the present time, when a speech delivered over-night is laid upon the breakfast-table two hundred miles distant the next morning; and therefore I will at once call upon you, gentlemen, to drink the health of those who toil hard with brain and hand to furnish us not only with information but instruction. Although I have thus spoken in general terms of the profession, I am not unmindful of the local press, which is conducted with a talent and impartiality not excelled in any town in the kingdom, and in giving the toast, I couple with it the name of Mr. ———.

GENTLEMEN,—The interests of the public at large are essentially bound up with those of the Press. We live in times when the newspaper is a great social, political, and moral power, one so great that it cannot be overlooked by any of those who would comprehend the character of their country or the nature of those processes by which the action of a mighty nation is directed. . . . The Press, which was formerly the privilege of the educated class, has become the patrimony of the people. There is not a man possessed of the first elements of knowledge in their simplest form to whom the Press, at the price to which it has now descended, is not easily accessible; and if there be any among so many who have not arrived at those first elements of knowledge, that, gentlemen, is their misfortune, and it is a reproach which, I trust, the Legislature of the country before many years are over, will have taken effectual measures to efface. . .

Speaking of the criticisms of the Newspaper Press,—if the criticisms and censures are unjust to an individual, they will do him no harm, except it be through his own want of manliness of character. If, on the other hand, they are just, they are to him invaluable; they become the mirror in which he acquires the view and knowledge of what otherwise he could not discern; from them he learns the means of amending his faults, of avoiding the errors he has committed, of making his abilities, whatever they be, more available for the benefit of his fellow-countrymen, of doing—I won't say more perfectly, but at any rate less imperfectly—the arduous work which Providence has appointed him to do.

Response to "THE PRESS."—By a Proprietor or Reporter.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I look around the room and fail to see an older member of the press than myself, the duty, therefore, shall be mine to thank you for the compliment just paid.

Sir, you have been pleased to speak of the Press of England as a free and enlightened press, as the forerunner, or great pioneer, of civilization, and as the palladium of our liberties—all this is true. True also it is a mighty power for good or evil: *for good*, when exercised in searching after truth and correctly leading the people,

and then deserving all honour; *for evil*, when prostituted to the lust of gold, and then deserving the utmost detestation and contempt. If Hampden or Pym in their days had had this great engine at their command, the life of a foolish good man, but bad king, would not have ended on the scaffold, and England might have been spared her long years of bloodshed during the Commonwealth, and yet have achieved the same greatness abroad. Some author has said: "Let me write the ballads of a people, and I care not who makes their laws." There is truth in this, and it foreshadowed the great influence the Press was to wield—and will wield, let us trust, ever in England—for good; that our progress may stimulate surrounding nations to shake off the shackles of ignorance and superstition, and walk erect upon the earth in perfect freedom, as God intended; that man shall not enslave his fellow-man either in body or mind, but each shall live for the other in unity and peace. Then will the Press have accomplished its mission; but until that time does arrive there must be no rest, no weariness, but onwards and upwards in our search for truth. This is the province of a free Press—to gain the goal, our reward. Gentlemen, I thank you.

Response.

MR. CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN,—At this late period of the evening it is not my intention to inflict upon you a very lengthy speech, but I consider an acknowledgment is especially due for kindly including in your toasts "The Fourth Estate, the Press," of which, with pride, I subscribe myself a member. Though represented by gentlemen who will carefully record all that has transpired this evening, I feel it my duty to attend upon this occasion as certainly the senior, if not the only exponent of the ——— cause in ———, so far as the Press is concerned. The occasion is a very happy one,—the assemblage of a large body of the industrial classes, united, "Liberals," in every sense of the word, and intent upon doing honour to one who, during his term of office, has truly represented their interests. Without desiring to throw the slightest disparagement upon our excellent friend Mr. ——— (even if I associated him with yourselves, as one honestly "obtaining his bread by the sweat of his brow," it would not be any disparagement), I must be allowed to add, that Mr. ——— has, by a long and laborious life and residence in this and other countries, acquired such practical knowledge as to acquaint him with what is best for the humbler classes, and how best to improve their condition. With such a foundation, the cause of the working men may safely be entrusted to Mr. ———, who has honoured us by his presence this evening. But to return to the subject of "The Press," which you have honoured us by proposing, I may be permitted, perhaps, to quote an extract from a speech of the Hon. Spencer Walpole, M.P., at the Newspaper Press Fund Dinner:—"We all of us know that there are many things which we familiarly enjoy, and do not appreciate, because we so familiarly enjoy them; and in this country we shall never appreciate the enormous advantages of a free, unrestricted, and enlightened Press, because we know that no legislation

would presume to interfere with that freedom, or in any way to intrench upon the free exercise of public opinion, which makes itself heard through the medium of the Press. I believe that when the future historian of this country writes the history of the last sixty-five years, he will show that during that period more progress has been made, more blessings have been conferred upon us, more advances have been attained in literature, in science, in art, in everything we care for, than in any three centuries before. You owe that, in a great measure, to your public Press." In conclusion, I beg to thank you for the compliment paid "The Press" generally.

TOASTS AND SENTIMENTS.

(To be got in readiness for Ways-Goose Day.)

The Press—the "tongue" of the country: may it never be cut out.
The Independent Press—the most important advantage that a free community can enjoy.

The Press—Whether "Albion" or "Columbian:" may its fame never meet with a "slur;" may all "monks" and "friars" be abolished by better "bringing up;" and may all its sens increase their "heap at the bank" as long as they labour for it.

The Ladies—May our Sweethearts and Wives be ever the types of our affection. With eyes "brilliant" as "diamonds;" lips like "rubies;" teeth like "pearls," with nothing of the "old-faced" style about them.

Our Governors—Long life and prosperity to them; and may the increased "scale" improve their "balance."

Our Literary Visitors—May the cold cramped hand belong to a warm heart. And although inattention to "points" often causes a "stoppage on the line" with us, may it never cause a "smash," or produce a "collision" between us in our various "stations." Above all things, never cross your lines.

Another to the same.—May those who drive the pen for the printer think of his eyes, and so dot their own; and by crossing their t's, tease and cross him less by the operation.

Our Professional Volunteers and Matrimony—May our single friends who occasionally "take up arms," soon join hands in the cause. May their "aim" be to find happiness in a "miss," and the result be a cup full of it to the brim.

Our Stewards—May their labours in arranging the heads of the tables, looking after the general bill, and providing a bill of fare which has so fairly divided fat and lean, light and solid, meet with its deserts in our approbation and their own satisfaction.

Our Constant "Readers"—In correcting our faults, may the numerous "proofs" we have of their attention press the fact upon our memories. While doing their duty, may they be merciful with the pepper-box, sparing with their ladders, as a step in the right direction; and ever mindful of our difficulties where limited space is concerned.—*From the Press News, 1867.*

THE FINE ARTS.

SPEECHES AT A DINNER OF THE ——— ART SOCIETY AND ART UNION.

The Mayor in the Chair.

GENTLEMEN,—In proposing the toast of "Success to the ——— Art Society and the Art Union," I may be allowed to express a hope that from this evening we may date a new era in the history of this borough. I believe that we are too much behind the spirit of the times in the patronage and encouragement we give to the fine arts. I trust that it is not too late to retrieve our position, to make up for lost ground, and to set an example in this direction. I trust that all those around the table will use their influence, each in his circle, to support this movement, and uphold the fine arts. I believe the progress of the fine arts to be the progress of civilization, and the progress of civilization to be the progress of virtue; and it behoves us all to do all we can to support the encouragement of the fine arts.

Gentlemen, Butler, the poet, in speaking of the utility of art, says :—

The whole world without art and dress
Would be but one great wilderness.

And Ruskin, the art critic :—"In no circumstance whatever can man be comfortable without art. The butterfly is independent of art, though it is only in sunshine that it can be happy." Very sacred is the vocation of the artist, who has to do directly with the works of God, and interpret the teaching of creation to mankind. All honour to the man who treats it sacredly, studies, as in God's presence, the thoughts of God which are expressed to him, and makes all things according to the pattern which is ever ready to show to earnest and reverent genius on the mount.

The hair of the artist turns white, but his eye shines clearer than ever, and he feels that age brings him maturity, not decay. The life of an artist is one of thought rather than action; he has to speak of the struggles of the mind rather than the conflict of circumstances.

I will call upon Mr. ——— to give you an account of the progress made since we last met.

Response by a Member of the Committee.

——— I thank the gentlemen present on behalf of the Committee, for the cordial manner in which the last toast has been received, and with which my name has been specially connected. On looking round the room I cannot but feel convinced that the large party assembled to do honour to the inauguration of the new picture galleries, proves, without a doubt, the great interest now felt in the success of the annual Exhibition of Paintings. I should, however, be wanting in candour did I not also add that, without the assistance of the Town Council, the Committee could have done nothing. The enlightened and generous policy of the Council, in adopting the proposal of the Committee for the conversion of a portion of the Town Hall to some useful purposes, remunerative to the ratepayers at large, entitled that body to the warmest thanks of the artists. The office which I have the honour to hold—of Secretary to the Art Society—though purely honorary as regards emoluments, is by no means so in respect to work, for the midnight hour usually finds me, pen in hand, replying to numerous letters received during the day, and which I can only attend to after the active daily duties of my profession are concluded. Still I feel amply rewarded for all the trouble and anxiety I have, by comparing the quality of the works of this year's Exhibition with those which have preceded it, proving that the artists of London sympathize with the movement, and are now determined to send works worthy of their reputation. The contributors to these walls look for more than honour—they expect their pictures to be sold—and if the gentlemen present really wish well to the Committee, they must not allow the majority of the pictures to be returned to the artists, because, if that is the case, they cannot expect another Exhibition to take place. Now, it would, perhaps, be too much to ask any person to purchase a picture of the value of £100 or upwards; but there is a way by which they could accomplish even this, and render infinite service to the Society at a small cost to themselves; and that is by subscribing for one or more chances to the Art Union, now in course of formation. At a recent meeting at the Town Hall, to establish this Society, the Mayor was kind enough to take the chair, and as the objects contemplated by the Art Union were then stated at length, and fully reported, it will be sufficient to say that the subscription for each chance has been fixed at ——— shillings. I wish also to add, that the cost of establishing the annual Exhibition is considerable, and that last year—although, by the kindness of the Town Council, they had the use of the room gratuitously—yet their expenses were £——, and this year they cannot be expected to be less than £——. The Committee, therefore, wish to imitate the example of the late Society of Fine Arts, and to solicit the lovers of the fine arts to support them by guinea subscriptions, and I trust that those I am addressing will become subscribers to the ——— Art Society before leaving this room. In conclusion, I desire to take advantage of this opportunity to express publicly my acknowledgments to my brother artists

for the generous confidence they have reposed in me, and which I feel the more because I have on frequent occasions been obliged to act decisively, and thereby incur considerable expense on my own responsibility; and it affords me great pleasure to say that on all occasions I have received the hearty support and co-operation of the Committee.

Response.—By an Exhibitor.

GENTLEMEN,—In responding to “The ——— Artists,” I feel called upon to make a few remarks on the present state of feeling in this country in regard to art. Public opinion on Art is in a transition state. The writings of Mr. Ruskin, the Pre-Raphaelite movement, and, above all, the introduction of Photography, has unsettled the public mind as to the infallibility of old and previously received theories respecting Art, many of which, by the rising generation of artists, are looked upon as obsolete, if not ridiculous. Holman Hunt’s famous *Light of the World* is an illustration of this. Twenty or thirty years ago it would have been denounced as an outrage on the good sense and taste of the community. The public, in fact, do not know what they are to censure or to praise; but I do not think this state of things will continue—I believe the sound good sense, and the strong sturdy spirit of the English people, will eventually decide, with an authority beyond which there will be no appeal, what is to be considered high and noble art, and who are to be looked up to by his countrymen as the great painter of his day. I wish to speak of the necessity of securing for the ——— Exhibition the support of the public, and of artists of reputation, and venture an opinion that the former Exhibitions have done more harm than good, inasmuch as they have created a feeling on the part of the first-rate artists that it is of no use to send pictures to ———, because there is no good room to hang them in, and no sale for them. This gallery has removed one cause of complaint, and the Art Union the other; and I do hope the ——— people will give them their hearty and cordial support, for if they do, each succeeding Exhibition will surpass the previous one, and they will ultimately see an Exhibition of paintings upon these walls of which ——— would have reason to be proud. The Corporation of London has set the example of enriching their edifices with the works of British artists, and I trust that example will extend to ———; and that the ratepayers will not begrudge a penny or twopence in the pound when they have the gratification of witnessing the efforts of artists to glorify their common nature in the productions of their own fellow-townsmen.

THE DRAMA.

"THE MEMORY OF SHAKSPEARE."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I come now to what we sometimes hear called "the toast of the evening"—yes, and the toast of the year; and I may with truth call it the toast of my life. I heartily approve of the idea of this festival. I think the leading events, epochs, and persons of this our earth require their occasional commemoration. Life is stagnant enough, men and women are common-place enough, to avoid the risk of such disturbances cropping up too frequently. Least of all can the nation which boasts of Shakspeare fear to misplace her homage; and as I think it right that such a celebration should be held, I am not less clear that the right place to hold it in was Stratford-upon-Avon—his own Stratford-upon-Avon—that Stratford-upon-Avon around which all we know of Shakspeare—all except his undying works—is exclusively clustered; here, on about the most central ground of his own fair England, where I cannot but fancy that the whole impress of the scenery and rural life around is so unmistakably English that we like to be reminded how home-like, and special, and insular was the cradle of that poet by whom we claim the mastery over the universal heart of man,—the password over the earth, and the many worlds beyond it. We are following, too, the good English rule of precedent, which was set for us by the celebration at Stratford in the last century, mainly under the auspices of him who seems to be universally acknowledged, out of the long line of illustrious players of either sex, dead or living, who have distinguished, and, in some instances, identified themselves with the leading characters of Shakspeare, to have held the foremost place as the interpreter of Shakspeare—David Garrick. But since that well-timed homage of the England of the 18th century to the memory of Shakspeare, with what colossal strides has his fame advanced in the estimation of mankind! In our own country, at the previous period, the public taste still allowed the representation of his plays to be overlaid by the clumsy alterations and tinsel additions of Dryden, of Cibber, and of Garrick himself—*Et tu, Brute!* I need not point out the gratifying contrast which the reverential and affectionate retention and restoration of the original text, and let me add, the scrupulous attention to the whole keeping and chronology of the minutest accessories of the representation, supplies in our days. Then abroad, the middle of the last century was the time when fast and fierce flew the arrows against the alleged barbarism of Shakspeare, aimed from the sarcastic armoury of Voltaire, which did not spare higher things than Shakspeare himself. Consult the first living names in the brilliant literature of France, and mark not how

altered, but how reversed, the tone is in which Shakspeare is now spoken of and judged. As to Germany, I believe her boast is that she reveres, understands, and fathers him even more thoroughly than ourselves. I believe I may cite Goëthe as the most representative name in the varied and teeming range of German literature; now does he designate Shakspeare?—as the greatest traveller in the journey of life. Happily, any endeavour to define or gauge the genius of Shakspeare would be as much beyond my mark as it would be beyond the limits and requirements of a scene like this. I think he would be a very clumsy worshipper at his immortal shrine who would not admit that his merits and beauties, while they are transcendent, are still unequal, and that in the whole range of his 36 admitted plays, in some of these he not only falls below his own level, but that of several of his contemporaries and successors. But take him in his height, and who may approach him? Presumptuous as the endeavour may appear to classify, there would seem to be few great tragedies which occupy summits of their own—*Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *Lear*, *Othello*, I feel we may take our stand within that unassailable quadrilateral, and give our challenge to all the world. I feel, indeed, tempted to upbraid myself when I think of all the outlying realms of strength and comeliness which I thus seem to leave outside; the stately forms of Roman heroes, the chivalry marshalled around our Plantagenet Kings, the wit of Mercutio, Beatrice, and Falstaff, the maiden grace of Imogen and Miranda, Ariel the dainty sprite, Oberon and his elfin Court, the memories of which people the glades of the Ardennes, the Rialto of Venice, the garden of Verona, giving to each glorious scene and sunny shore a stronger lien upon our associations than is possessed even by their own native land. It is time that I should call upon you, in the right of all the recollections which must throng in your own breasts far more copiously and vividly than I could hope to present them to you—by the thrill you have felt in the crowded theatre, amid all the splendour of dramatic pageantry—by the calmer enjoyment of your closet leisure—by the rising of your soul when the lines which breathe and warm have led you to recognize and adore the Giver of such gifts to men, to join me in drinking, not with the solemn silence which a more recent death might have enjoined, but with the reverential love and the admiring fervour due to the day and the man—"The Memory of Shakspeare!"

May the Stage ever form a school of morals for mankind.

Toast. By the Chairman.

"PROSPERITY TO THE — — DRAMATIC SICK FUND."

GENTLEMEN,—As there are many here who are little, if at all, acquainted with the nature of the institution which we have met to support, it is my duty to endeavour to explain its necessities and its usefulness. If those who minister to the intellectual gratification of the public were exempted from "the ills which flesh is heir to," there would be no necessity for such an institution; but, strange to say, those who attract by their talents and charm by their grace, holding all spell-bound

by their marvellous power of representing the great passions of our nature, and the subtle emotions of the soul, are human like the rest of the world; and, if there is any difference between them and mankind in general, it is to be found in the more arduous nature of their profession, in the greater vicissitudes of their fortune, and in the startling contrast between the glitter and splendour of the stage and the stern realities of actual life.

Gentlemen, am I exaggerating or saying more than the bare truth when I describe the player in relation to his art as one of the public benefactors of his time? Many, very many are the claims of the actor on the friendly remembrance of the public while he occupies the public eye. But what is his position when the public eye has lost sight of him? Has his life then no claim on the general sympathy? Let us take the case of one who, after a long struggle against advancing infirmity, is at last stricken down. The doctor's fiat has gone forth—the man must leave his profession if he would preserve his health. To-morrow, then, the curtain which will rise on others will not rise on him; the cheerful faces of the audience, the actor's second sunshine, will meet his gaze no more. Poverty, sickness, seclusion, and oblivion fence his prospect round on every side. Can no ray of hope penetrate that darkness from the public whom he has faithfully served? No; the public inevitably forget him. Public attention can only notice the new man who now fills his vacant place. Is there no helping hand held out to him in his serious need? Yes, the best helping hands are held out, the hands of his brethren in art. They thought of the possibility of the day of adversity, and said to him, "While you are earning a salary, give what you can spare to a fund which we will administer—a fund which shall be open to every man or woman who subscribes, no matter what their rank in their profession, or whether their theatre is great or small. If the means of administering that fund fail through the exceptionally generous administration of it, not on you who are poor and weary shall the burden fall of appealing to the public, if appeal we must, but upon us. We are prosperous and celebrated; take our prosperity and celebrity into your service. If others forget, let it be for us to remember, that, great or small, we are all bound together in the great brotherhood of art." Such motives the men have felt who founded this fund, and such motives are still felt by those who serve the fund. Such an institution requires no advocacy. It requires only to be known that the actor's brethren have done this for the actor before coming to the public outside. On these grounds I confidently rest the claims on your grateful and sympathizing benevolence.

Nor let it ever be forgotten, Gentlemen, that the —— Theatrical Fund is essentially a Provident Institution. By becoming a member of this Society the actor is placing himself in a position to secure his own right at no man's wrong; and when in old age or in times of distress he makes his claim to it, he will be entitled to say, "I do not compromise my independence herein; I do not disgrace my children; am neither a beggar nor a suppliant; I come to reap the harvest from the seed that I sowed long ago."

Gentlemen, I now arrive at the main business of the evening, and stand before you as the pleader for the ——— Theatrical Fund, one of the most excellent, one of the most deserving of the Charitable Institutions that grace this favoured land.

And to show you, Gentlemen, the great liberality of this Fund, where accident or infirmity may suddenly arrest the career of an actor, I have only to allude to a case which came before the Directors within the last few weeks.

Now, Gentlemen, let us turn from the objects of this Fund, and look a little at its encouragement. Here is the financial statement of the year—I may say, the budget. I find that the receipts are £———. Out of this sum, £——— and over have been paid to annuitants and to other claimants. Over £——— have been carried to the capital account; and to remunerate ——— Directors, a Secretary, and a whole staff of officials, all the advertising, printing, and the incidental expenditure, I find charged a sum under £———. I do not find a single penny charged for red tape. Why, this paper might be very justly sent down to Downing-street, for the purpose of being stuck over the mantel-piece in the private bureau of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Really, unaccustomed as we are to public economy, this appears to me to be perfectly and simply marvellous.

May genius and wit never be exiles from the British Stage.

May the Drama always have the effect of reforming the morals and improving the mind.

A LADY'S AFTER-DINNER SPEECH.

At the 13th Anniversary Dinner of the Dramatic, Equestrian, and Musical Sick Fund, at Willis's Rooms, on Wednesday Evening, February 10th, 1869, the toast of "The Ladies" was acknowledged by Mrs. Stirling, whose name was coupled with it. Mrs. Stirling said :

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—I wish you could lay Shakspeare's flattering unction to my soul, and say from your hearts,—

Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale
Her infinite variety.

My plan contradicts the one pleasant assurance—your memories; and the reporter's notes remain to contradict the other. Even if I were not tired of appearing here so often on behalf of "The Ladies," I feel that you must be tired of hearing, year after year, the same subject from the same lips, and that this must be my last appearance in this character. "Who drives fat oxen should himself be fat;" and by a parity of reasoning, "who returns thanks for young ladies should herself be young;" and when I look at the fair young faces around me, I feel that if my subject were "The Ladies," I should despair; but that is your theme, gentlemen. My duty is to thank you, as I do very cordially, for the warmth with which you have toasted us. And my fair sisters are here to encourage your liberality by their smiles, and to kindle you into rivalry of hard cash, as ladies look at the tournaments of old stirred up their knights into

rivalry of hard knocks. Old or young, we here can meet on common ground. The youngest and brightest here may need the aid of the charity in whose support we meet; the oldest may seek from it a shelter for declining years. Be not sparing of your gifts to-day; they will gladden many a sad heart while yours are happy; they may console your own in time of need, when this day is forgotten. Before I sit down, let me say a few words on a subject that has occupied the attention of most of us for the last few days—I mean the Lord Chamberlain's missive to the managers touching certain shortcomings on their parts—I beg pardon, in the parts of their ballet draperies. If I had the office of Lady Chamberlain, what sort of a letter should I issue to the managers? I don't think scanty petticoats would be my text. I only wish the plays we have to act were always as satisfactory as the dresses they are acted in, and that the worst offences against good taste on the stage were to be looked for in the costumes of the *corps de ballet*. I should first suggest to managers to cater for the higher, instead of the lower tastes of the public, and to see whether there is not a large class that might be drawn to the theatre by a better style of entertainment. To some authors I would say, If we are to have burlesque, let it be of the humour that we remember of old, and be made up of better materials than nigger melodies, break-downs, and wire-drawn puns. I would advise the more serious dramatists to be realistic in higher matters than hansom cabs and practicable pumps, and to give us characters and incidents as like the truth as the painted scenes before which they are played. To us actors and actresses I would say,—

Oh, wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as others see us!

But I should think it wise to follow the example of the Lord Chamberlain, by not venturing into any particular or personal explanation of my general remarks. And now, having made myself generally disagreeable, let me take refuge under the hem of Shakspeare's garment, that mantle which has covered in its time such a multitude of stage sins and sinners, and plead with you in the spirit, if not exactly in the words, of Rosalind. I will allow you to say that "I am not a good epilogue," but I will defy you to add that "I cannot insinuate with you on behalf of a good play." Let me call to-night's performance "Love's Labour's not Lost," and refer you for the bill of incidents and cast of the characters to the speech of the Chairman and the accounts of the Secretary. I won't say "I am not furnished like a beggar," and I hope you won't say that "To beg will not become me." My way is to conjure you, and I'll begin with the women. I charge you, O women, for the love you bear to men, to get as much out of your pockets as pleases you. And so I charge you, O men, for the love you bear to the women (as I perceive by your simpering, none of you hate them), that between you and the women the subscription list may be well filled. And to show our gratitude, if I were Rosalind, I would kiss as many of you as had beards that pleased me, and complexions that liked me; and I am sure, as many of you have good beards and good faces, you will, for my kind offer, when I make my curtsy, bid me farewell.

EDUCATION.

ON MIDDLE-CLASS EDUCATION.

GENTLEMEN,—It must be admitted from statistics, that the movement is still in its infancy. If the great middle class of this country is to take advantage of the movement for the improvement of the education of their children, we must look for larger numbers at these examinations; but although the movement may be yet in its infancy, it certainly has already borne fruit, not only in the considerable number of candidates which, taking the whole country, has appeared at the examinations, but also in the attention which it has drawn to a very important subject. We have now had for many years a very considerable movement with regard to education in this country, and one thing at least we may regard as entirely established, indeed, as so completely established, that it seems unnecessary to allude to it—I mean the advantage of education. Many persons may remember the time when a great many people thought there was such a thing as over-education, and that the best way to avoid such a dangerous result was to do without any education at all. These people, in order to avoid the Scylla of over-education, drifted towards the Charybdis of no education at all. Well, we have got over this stage, and we are now all agreed that education is a good thing. Thanks to the exertions of many very distinguished men, we have seen a very extensive system of education established for the lower classes—an education which we now see embracing almost the whole people. By this remark I do not mean to say that more is not to be done, and that there may not be spots which the system has not reached, or that we ought to be content with the number of children who attend school; but the system is firmly established, and we may look for its continued progress until it embraces all the children who ought to attend school. While we have been introducing a good system of education for the children of the lower classes, we have not neglected the education of the upper classes. But hitherto we have done very little for one of the most extensive classes, and perhaps the most important class in the country—the middle class. I use the term “middle class” for want of a better; in point of fact, the phrase embraces the great working population of this country, through whom the great wealth of the country has been accumulated, who constitute the backbone of English society, and upon whom the industry and prosperity of the country very greatly depend. There is hardly a political meeting at which the speakers do not dilate upon the great strength and

importance of the middle class, and upon the political power which it possesses. Well, if this class is the mainstay of our commerce, and at the same time a great power in the political system of this country, every one must feel that it is his duty to secure, as far as possible, the highest education to it. If we look not only to the interests of the whole country, but to the interests of the middle class itself, I suppose no one will dispute that it is of the utmost importance that it should not fall behind in the educational race. When the middle class sees, as it does now, the class below it continually rising in knowledge and education—and some remarkable evidences of intelligence and education have been shown in what I may term the upper part of the lower classes—it must be of the highest importance to members of the middle class itself that, by their own exertions, they should do everything to promote the education of their children. I think we are much indebted to the universities for having taken this matter in hand. I am perfectly well aware that a very considerable portion of the middle class belongs to the Church of England; but it must be borne in mind, a very large portion hold different views, and as whenever the educational question is touched upon in this country, the subject of religion also arises—and properly so, because education without religion would not be sound—the fears and suspicions of a large body of the middle class may be aroused if the universities take the matter in hand. The conclusion at which I am rather driven to arrive—although I speak hesitatingly, as upon a matter with regard to which scarcely any one has made up his mind—is that the middle class must be in some way indebted to the Government in respect to their education. I should be the last person to wish to see the middle classes indebted to the Government for pecuniary assistance; and I think it would be a most unfortunate thing if we were to put into the hands of the Government the whole education of the country, not only of the lower class, but of the middle class also. Such a policy might operate in such a manner as to produce considerable political changes, and might not commend itself to the instinct of Englishmen, who have acquired a great attachment to self-government; at the same time, there are certain things which can be done through the action of the Government alone. The Government is the Government of the whole country, and can act quite impartially, which nobody like the universities, even although they may be actuated by the best intentions, can do, connected as they have been so long with one religious body. With regard to endowed schools, I believe they were founded by men in advance of their time, and that if they could speak now they would be the last persons to declare that no improvements are to be introduced into their schools. They had in view the same objects which we have in view now: they wished to stimulate good education; they took things as they found them, and established what was then thought the best system of education; but, probably, if they could speak, they would be the first to declare that they never intended that their schools should not be susceptible of improvements. Changes in the letter of what founders of schools have prescribed, should not, then, be regarded

too jealously, so long as the spirit of what they had prescribed is adhered to, and so long as the general principles which they had laid down are respected. While we are right in not allowing the Government to become possessed of the management of our affairs, we derive great benefit from independent inspection of what we do. Thus we have appointed inspectors of prisons, mines, and factories, and in every case in which we have applied the system, we have done so with marked success; and even those who at first offered opposition, in consequence of the interference which they anticipated would be brought to bear upon their affairs, have themselves acknowledged the great benefit which they have derived from the new policy. It seems, then, to be exactly the province of the Government of a free country to establish that which, after all, no part of a country can supply for itself—a general independent inspection brought to bear upon every part of it. Then, undoubtedly, there must be a system of examination; whether it can be best conducted through the universities, as at present, or through some other means, must be left to experience to determine. It would be a great advantage if the connection with the universities could be kept up, as certain venerable associations are connected with them, and the stamp of university approval carries with it considerable weight. It is a question for consideration, whether in connection with the Civil Service, the Society of Apothecaries, the Law Society, and other bodies, certificates from these local examinations may not be accepted as a sufficient preliminary test.

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL PRIZES.

The Mayor in the Chair.

GENTLEMEN,—We are met together for two objects: one for the distribution of those prizes which have been gained by the pupils; and the other to receive the reports of the examiners. The first is a very gratifying proceeding, and the second a very necessary one, in order that you may be made aware of the state of the school. No doubt, with respect to the fifth and sixth forms these reports will be satisfactory; but I think that the first form should receive the same consideration as the higher ones; because, if the education imparted is not based on a sound and firm foundation, the superstructure will not go on satisfactorily. I merely throw this out as a suggestion to the examiners, for I am as yet unaware of the contents of their reports. I have much pleasure in congratulating my young friends on their prospect of a pleasant holiday, which I heartily wish they may enjoy, and that during their peregrinations in the country they may find —

Tongues in trees, books in running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything,

and that they may return to their scholastic duties with renewed vigour and energy. With regard to the school, there is no doubt that it is going on as satisfactorily as any institution possibly can. My vocabulary of praise on its behalf—after having presided at

these gatherings for several half-years—is entirely exhausted. I am very pleased to see one of the patrons of the school present, Mr. ———, a gentleman who identifies himself with everything which he believes to be for the good of his fellow-creatures—and I happen to know that he attends to-day with some inconvenience. Last year I had occasion to say a word of praise on behalf of the patrons, and as I was walking down to the Hall, just now, I thought that this time I would say a word or two for the working bees—the Executive Committee. I have been associated with the gentlemen forming that Committee from the commencement; and if the proprietors would just take a cursory glance at what they have been called upon to perform, I am sure they would all be thoroughly satisfied that much of the success and progress of the school has been owing to their great exertions, for which I am sure they are deserving of our highest encomiums. The masters have been most energetic in the discharge of their duties; and before I sit down I am desirous of remarking that pupils were submitted to the last Cambridge competitive examination, and, much to the credit of the master who brought them up, the whole of them came off successfully, and carried off either prizes or certificates. Now, I think that goes far to show that the school is carried on upon a well-organized system; when we take into consideration that the whole of these boys passed in five subjects, whilst two were sufficient to obtain a certificate. Such results must be gratifying to the pupils, the proprietors, and the masters, and I congratulate them on their success. I am pleased to see them going on so prosperously, and hope they will continue to do so, as I know they will under the present system. In conclusion, I would again repeat my wish that the first form should receive as great attention as the fifth and sixth, as you will hardly need reminding that.

'Tis education forms the common mind;
Just as the twig is bent the tree's inclined.

It may be necessary for me to explain that this year the prizes have been awarded in a different manner from that hitherto adopted. It has been found out that some boys, finding themselves proficient in one particular branch of study, have worked themselves up in that particular branch and neglected others; therefore we have determined to give the prizes to those who obtained the greatest aggregate number of marks on all subjects. In the matter of marks, there has been a somewhat strange coincidence. The Examiners' marks for the first, second, and third boys entirely agree with the masters' marks, which I think furnishes one proof of the justice of their awards.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.

THE CHAIRMAN,—This day is the anniversary of this Association, and probably it may be considered, comparatively speaking, an important one for the time it has been established. It was once said by a statesman, "Happy is the nation whose annals are vacant," and with regard to this Association, it is vacant in strife of any importance. It was established for the purpose of promoting Christianity, and we care little where the young men do worship, so long as they worship under the banner of Christ.

THE REV. MR. ——— :—You will remember probably that last year I made a prophecy. Our friend Mr. ——— said at that time that he expected it would be the last time he should have the pleasure of presiding at the meeting of this Association, and I prophesied that, through the kindness of his nature, I should have the pleasure of meeting Mr. ——— again. I am happy to say that prophecy has been fulfilled. I am sorry that you have hit upon an evening on which it will be inconvenient for me to remain long, as I have promised to be elsewhere. It is just one of those evenings when I may safely say, "Save me from my friends," in a new sense of the term. I hardly know upon what subject to speak to you, but, seeing a number of young men present, it will not be out of place to say to them that I shall speak under three heads. One would fancy creation was born with three heads. Sermons are delivered under three heads, and everything seems to be done under three heads. The first subject I shall touch upon will be Intellectual life : 2nd. Ecclesiastical life : 3rd. Religious life. With regard to intellectual life, you should all try to get the clearest ideas in your minds. I recollect getting a friend of mine to look through a telescope, and he saw a bright speck. I put that telescope a little out of focus, and my friend was delighted, because it swelled into a blur with bright colours, but, in fact, he saw nothing but a mist, and nothing clear. You must get your eyes to the right focus, otherwise you will see nothing but mist. How are you to get those clear ideas? You must not read those striped, green-backed novels, which you can buy for a shilling a piece, but which contain only trashy articles. I am not speaking against all the shilling books, for many of them contain excellent instruction. You should learn to study things which have stood the test of a century. You may shut yourselves up and read such books as have stood the test of hundreds of years, and study them till you imagine that the writers are speaking to you as friends. It is a glorious thing to put one's self in communication with great men. With regard to ecclesiastical life, it almost makes one out of spirits, for everybody seems to hate what he thinks wrong more, than love that which he thinks right. Now, such associations as these tend very much to do away with that feeling. Do not be misled by words. Whilst you are on your guard against error of any kind, when you see things glorious and true, whether in the expression of a living human being or a past human being, you should sympathize with it. For my part, I like to master my opinions, and I never will be the slave of a sect. Now, with regard to religious life. In these times of criticism and want of charity, I should like to find a little more private communication with God,—private prayer. It is in private that the heart can most effectually hold communication with God, and it is our greatest privilege to be enabled to do so. If you find you have a nasty, critical feeling and selfishness, instead of a warm affection, then retire to your closet, and, by private supplication and prayer, you will relieve your minds, which will be much better than dealing with phantoms, for you will then be dealing with the Lord of life.

These Associations are a great movement amongst young men, and one calculated to promote their spiritual and social welfare, and

I am happy to say this has made great progress. There is a religious earnestness in these Associations, and they are devoted to good works, and, as a consequence, are of beneficial interest to society at large. These Young Men's Associations are organized throughout the world, and they have a wonderful moral influence in society. Young men are banded together for the good of their fellows, and to promote their moral and social condition. Young men in these Associations are well educated, well dressed, well fed, and enjoy all the comforts of life that the heart can desire. Then where, it may be asked, is the necessity of such Associations, if young men are in themselves religiously and morally inclined? It is for the purpose of endeavouring to bring other young men to a proper sense of their condition who lead a different life. Those young men are the representatives of a very large class of young men in large establishments and large warehouses, and are exposed to peculiar danger, by reason of the fact that many of them are only half educated, and have received no proper training. The consequence is that such young men need guidance as to the proper books to read, and the particular course they ought to pursue. Numbers of them are thrown into society without friends, and the chances are that they will run into error. Then, if only half educated, they may be led astray, and shut themselves out of social enjoyment and intercourse with persons who behave with moral rectitude. Again, it is wrong for young men to be always shut up with young men, for it tends very much to lessen their regard for their homes, to shut them out from that elevating position, the enjoyment of female society, and to render them oftentimes corrupt and depraved. Two years' experience in these Associations has enabled me to speak of their usefulness and efficiency, and the encouragement they give to habits of prudence and religion. These Societies are not merely Mutual Improvement Societies, but Societies in which each member is himself a missionary to bring young men to the influence of the glorious Gospel.

Speeches at the Opening of a Working Men's Club and Reading Room.

THE CHAIRMAN :—This Institution, although based upon temperance principles, is not intended to be exclusively a teetotalers' club, the great desire of the promoters being to induce their fellow-men to fit themselves precisely for the position in which God, by his providence, has placed them. Whatever a man's capacity may be, he must not fill a position as a mere book-worm. It is not because a man is a literary man that he possesses practical knowledge. It is highly necessary that a working man should have practical knowledge. With this object, it is our desire to bring ourselves into communication with the working man, and see how far we can benefit that class. In order to have a thorough knowledge of the labouring men, we must place ourselves in communication with them somewhere, and that cannot be at a public-house. Therefore, we thought it necessary to establish such an institution as this. We want to estrange the poor man's desires from the public-house; but it seems almost unavoidable, in the present state of things, to prevent him from going to a public-house. Men scarcely ever get intoxicated

except at a public-house. I do not think men go to a public-house entirely for the sake of drink, but principally to enjoy society; when there, they often indulge too freely, and render their homes uncomfortable. With regard to Mechanics' Institutions, they have been tried, but defects have been found in them, which it is now sought to remedy by the establishment of such institutions as the one for which we are now asking support, where, by communication with the working man, we can obtain a better insight into his character, and learn how most effectually to assist him. The objects of this Institution are the social improvement of our neighbours, so as to lead to their happiness. Such institutions as these are being established all over the country, where the more wealthy may meet the labouring man in social intercourse, and do that which may be eminently useful to him. I will go back to our great and immortal dramatist, and quote him with reference to the Jack Cade riots. Then it was death for any but lawyers or parsons to write their names; and if a man had a book in his pocket with red letters in it he was a conjuror. Of a clerk, named Emmanuel,

Cade asks—Dost thou use to write thy name? or hast thou a mark to thyself, like an honest plain-dealing man?

Clerk—Sir, I thank God I have been so well brought up that I can write my name.

Cade—Away with him, I say: hang him with his pen and ink-horn about his neck.

What a contrast was that mob to this meeting, attended by eminent clergymen and other friends, met to inaugurate an Institution promoted by excellent and able men, bent on imparting those inestimable advantages of knowledge now open to the poorest, of learning probably more extensive than was possessed by that too-fatally learned person in the days of Jack Cade. What improvements have been made in society during the last forty years. I could point out to you when, only a few years ago, stacks and barns were blazing, when the Bristol riots took place, and when operatives marched out for the purpose of destroying machinery. Why do I do this, but to contrast the present with the past. Vice and immorality formerly stalked abroad in a frightful form, when the voice of morality and religion dared not raise itself. An article in the *Quarterly Review* has attributed much of the condition of the working men to the broad line which forms a social separation between the rich and the poor, and in order to remedy this evil, there is no better means than by establishing such institutions as the one we are met to inaugurate. Drunkenness is the great social evil of England, but I trust by our endeavours, and the good example set the drunkard by the temperate man, that drunkenness will in time wear itself out, and be eradicated from the length and breadth of the land. You must bear in mind that such institutions cannot long exist without the continued assistance of the rich, who will be abundantly rewarded for their exertions in giving encouragement to them, and the poor will look upon them as friends, and not as enemies, in which light the working classes are too prone to consider them. I will now conclude by moving the following resolution:—"That in the opinion of this meeting, institutes or clubs for working men, based on the principle of providing them with amusement and social intercourse and instruction, apart

from the influence of intoxicating drinks, are deserving of the sympathy and support of the wealthier classes, and this meeting pledges itself to aid in the development of the —— Working Men's Club and Reading Room now forming with these objects."

Speech on Schools of Art.

GENTLEMEN,—I have had great pleasure in accepting the invitation of the committee to be present for the purpose of assisting in the distribution of prizes. I have always taken great interest in these Schools of Art. I regard them as an important element in our national wealth and prosperity; and to explain this, it may be necessary to go back to the Exhibition of 1851, as the starting-point from which these institutions originated. For the first time, in 1851, the manufactures and produce of every country in the world were brought together in one splendid building, designed by the genius of Sir Joseph Paxton. I may add, by way of parenthesis, that unless the genius of a Paxton had suggested that building, in all probability the working classes of the country—and not only the artisans, but the employers of labour in the country—would not have had an opportunity of seeing what other countries produced, and of comparing them with our own productions; but by means of that grand Exhibition they were able to see in what respect we were deficient, and where it was that other countries excelled us. We were enabled to take a general view of the manufactures of the world, and of the produce of foreign countries, and by that means to raise our manufactures to the highest standard. It was discovered that there was one thing wanting to enable the British employers of labour to put this country on a footing with other countries, and that was the abolition of restrictions which prevented a general competition throughout Europe. But shortly afterwards the great treaty, which was one of the greatest boons ever conferred upon a country—the Treaty of Commerce with France—was concluded. By that treaty France was opened to a great extent to the manufactures and produce of this country, and a further foundation was laid for the great free-trade movement. Similar treaties have now been entered into with Italy, Belgium, and Prussia, and I hope that Austria will soon be added. That great treaty for the first time gave that stimulus to the British artisan and the British employer of labour which was necessary to place them on a proper footing as regarded competition with the rest of the world. And has the Great Exhibition of 1851, or the treaty with France, produced any result? I say they have; and that result has been shown in the Exhibition of 1862. There the progress which had been made by England during the ten years which had elapsed, could be fully seen. In 1851, that in which the English artisan failed was in matters of taste, where form and colour were principally concerned. France and some other countries were far in advance of us. For good substantial work no country equalled—certainly none excelled—our own; but in beautiful and delicate combinations of colour and form we were behind France and many other countries. Yet it was a most remarkable thing, that in 1862 we had so far gained on France and other European countries, that the struggle was no

longer to keep up with France, but it became a struggle on the part of the French to keep up with us. The French Government requested the trades of France to send representatives to examine the produce and manufactures exhibited here in 1862, in order that they might make reports upon them. I have seen the reports which were sent in, and in many instances I found that the French representative workmen stated that we were distancing them, and that it would require all their skill to keep pace with us. In particular they alleged that they were in danger of losing ground in consequence of the increased skill and the increased appreciation of beauty in form and colour which was manifesting itself in this country. I hold that to be a most interesting and important fact, and I will pause to ask how to a great extent this result has been gained. In consequence of the Exhibition of 1851 an institution was founded in London, which, I venture to say, was an honour to the country. I have seen nearly all the public museums in Europe of the same category, and, considering that the Kensington Museum has only been established for eight or nine years, I believe there is no institution in Europe which in so short a time can show such results. There are there the finest works of art of a peculiar character which can be exhibited anywhere, and they are altogether of a different character from those meritorious works which find a place in the British Museum. In the one collection there are works showing the history of the world; while in the Kensington Museum there are works of art applied to the common necessities of life. If a man wishes to make a teapot or a teacup, he can go to the Kensington Museum and see at once what improvements the very latest science has introduced into the particular branch of art in which he is immediately concerned. Whatever might have been the object of the original founders of the Kensington Museum, the value of the institution is shown in the assistance and encouragement it gives to Schools of Art such as that which has been established in ——. These Schools of Art have already exercised great influence throughout the country. Everywhere may be seen the improvement of taste among manufacturers and the employers of labour, and among those who benefit by labour. At one time nothing could have been lower than the art displayed by this country. Going back only for twenty or thirty years, I would venture to say, that nothing could be more hideous than the works of art which were hung up on the walls of our dwelling-houses—specimens of needlework by Sarah Ann or Betsy Jane, and an extraordinary kind of cats, with their heads suspended on wire, moving to and fro. And who was it that made them? The Italians—a people who had the very best feeling and taste for art, but who knew that if they modelled figures after the Venus di Medici or the Apollo Belvidere, they would stand no chance of being sold so long as those extraordinary cats could be procured. What was the result of the efforts of Mr. Wedgwood in this respect? Years ago he invented a most beautiful and classic form of pottery, but his manufactures had no success except among certain classes. The reason was, that the taste of the people had not been formed. They had not sufficient taste to appreciate such works; and adequate remuneration not being afforded, the experiment failed. Taking into con-

sideration all these circumstances, I think that institutions such as this at ———, the object of which is to improve and develop the taste of the artisan, and to enable him to work with more skill than he has hitherto displayed, are eminently deserving of encouragement and support. It is most satisfactory to find that our exportation of works in which beauty of form and combination of colour are required, have largely increased during the last few years. I allude in particular to manufactures of glass and china. Formerly, France enjoyed almost a monopoly in such matters; but we are now her equal, if not her superior. This fact alone is, I think, a sufficient justification for the assertion that the establishment of Schools of Art has been a source of wealth and material prosperity to the country. They have assisted, not only in forming the national mind and the national taste, but in enabling us largely to increase our exports to foreign countries. I will now turn to another part of the question—the enjoyment which Schools of Art afford to a large number of persons in the country. Let it not be supposed that these schools are intended alone for the artisan class. They are as important to the rich as they are to the poor. With regard to the upper classes, I may remark that the Kensington Museum is daily attended by many of them, and there the artisan has the means of improving his taste. These Schools of Art are rising up in various directions in London, and also in towns like ———, which could not be called either agricultural or manufacturing towns. But in many agricultural towns Schools of Art are being introduced, and I confess that, when I entered the meeting, I had no idea that I should have met so large an assembly as I have now the honour of addressing. I could not have believed that a School of Art would have excited so much interest in ———. I do not think that anything could be better adapted to the improvement of the working classes than these Schools of Art. Their establishment has tended to the extension of similar institutions in different parts of the country. Having dwelt upon generalities, I will now say a few words upon particulars, before delivering the prizes. My occupation has not given me many opportunities of inspecting the produce of Schools of Art, but I am perfectly convinced that they are proceeding in the right direction. My experience has led me to believe that those who send their children to those institutions expect too much from them at first. Now, no person can do anything well unless he begins at the beginning. Many persons are apt to imagine that when they have been a week or two at a School of Art, they can produce sketches of trees, or houses, or other things, of a perfect character: but that is a great mistake. But some persons have told me, after some months training at Kensington, that their previous notions had been wrong, and that the more they studied principles the better artists would they become. The object of Schools of Art is to give a good knowledge of the elementary part of drawing, leaving the pupils to carry out the principles which have been instilled into them. Unless they are well grounded in these principles, they will never hold a high position. I sincerely hope that the progress which has been made during the past year will be an encouragement to the friends of the school, not only to maintain it in its present high position but to place it in one still higher.

MISCELLANEOUS.

SPEECHES ON THE EARLY CLOSING MOVEMENT.

GENTLEMEN,—The subject which has called us together is a very important one—to consider the best means of reducing the hours of labour, so as to relieve the very numerous class of assistants who are employed throughout this important town. I hold in my hand a resolution bearing on the subject, which I will read to you. In supporting that resolution, it is necessary for you to consider, first of all, the requirements and necessities of employers, and after that, to see how far the assistants have a right to ask for the advantage of a reduction in the hours of labour. It is admitted—and that is one advantage to the promoters of the movement—that a diminution of the hours of labour should be granted; and the only question now for debate is, on what day this reduction should be made. Several in the town consider that Saturday is the day most suited, whilst a still greater number think Wednesday would be more convenient to the shopkeepers and the general public, and more beneficial to the *employés*. No doubt there are strong arguments to be advanced in favour of either day by different trades living in different neighbourhoods; but, taken on the whole, I believe the majority of the tradesmen would prefer to close on Wednesday at five o'clock in preference to Saturday, and therefore I submit this proposition. I wish it to be thoroughly understood, that I move this in no spirit of hostility to those who have determined to close on the Saturday, but in order that they may arrive at a conclusion which day would be the most convenient and best adapted, in order that they may secure one or the other, so as to make the cessation general throughout the town. Although the granting of the holiday on the Saturday evening would be a great boon to the assistants, I believe it would be found altogether impracticable to carry it out; whereas if Wednesday evenings were adopted, coming as they do in the middle of the week, it would not interfere with trade to the same extent, and would cause a break in the week's toil, which the assistants would look forward to at the commencement of their week's labours on the Monday morning with such pleasure, as to stimulate them to unusual exertions, knowing that after that the remainder of the week is of short duration, and then comes the advantage of Sunday. I have heard some arguments urged against Wednesday, and some even went to this extent: That supposing the masters granted the holiday on Wednesdays from five o'clock, the assistants would abuse the pri-

vilage by going to theatres, music-halls, and that class of entertainments, and would not devote the time to mental instruction and their own educational advantage. I think that sort of argument is not altogether fair, because they could not judge until they had given them a trial; and I believe the assistants would seize with avidity the opportunity to improve themselves; and that ultimately the employers would find that the granting of the boon would turn to their own interest and benefit. I believe also that they would have the advantage of — gentlemen present, who would give them entertainments which would amuse and instruct them. A very great complaint is now made, not only by the clergy, but by many inhabitants, that their quiet on Sundays is very much disturbed by excursionists; and I believe that the excursionists coming amongst the shop assistants on that day cause them to depart from a proper observance of the Sunday—to give up the religious part of their duties, and spend Sundays—the only day they get to themselves—almost entirely as a day of pleasure. If Wednesday evenings were granted them, they might use that time in healthful amusements, and would feel a greater inclination to keep the Sabbath as it should be kept. The decision of the question does not rest so much with the employers as with the public itself, and you may depend upon it that if the public would take the matter in hand, and would not purchase after — o'clock on Wednesday evenings, the trading community would be only too happy to follow.

Mr. — : I am an advocate for early closing, and have always made a rule of allowing the young men in my employ leave of absence one evening every week; but I very much doubt if persons in the same line of business as myself (———) — would be able to comply with the request of the Mayor, for it is frequently necessary for them to fulfil orders at a moment's notice, to meet the requirements of the Upper Ten Thousand, to whom they have to look for support. I am glad, however, to see the matter taken up in the manner it has by the —, and hope they will carry it out as far as practicable; but I trust that no ill-feeling will be engendered against any particular tradesman who does not close, for it may be impossible for him to do so, and it would only be doing the cause more harm than good. It is quite practicable for half-a-dozen tradesmen of a certain orbit to agree amongst themselves to close on a certain day at a certain hour; and if that was done, I think the movement would go on to success; but by the way they are now proceeding, I think they will never reach success. I would appeal to Mr. — to urge upon the Upper Ten Thousand the necessity of not purchasing after a certain time. The early closing movement is one which I think will have to be carried on by degrees.

CAPITAL AND LABOUR.

GENTLEMEN,—I rise to propose the next toast, "The Working Men of —," and in doing so, I would take a brief review of the duties and relations existing between capital and labour. I believe that in every country it will be found that the prosperity and happiness of

that country depend upon the prosperity, and happiness, and intellectual welfare of those who labour; that upon that labour depends the proper exercise, and the proper investment, and the legitimate investment, of capital; and that upon the two combined depends the prosperity of the country. Upon labour depends the production of wealth, and every addition to its productiveness helps to increase that wealth, to diminish the cost of commodities, and to make them more easy of attainment. Our first object should be to encourage industry, and to obtain for it a fair and just return. The best mode of effecting this, is to leave that industry as free as possible; to allow it to earn as adequate a reward as possible, to protect all persons in its enjoyment, and, by lessening the price of the necessaries of life, to increase the value of that reward. To effect these objects, property must be secure, and labour and commerce must be free from all restraint. Whatever gives the best direction to industry, and most facilitates its operation, favours the increase of wealth. But that requires capital which possesses the power of putting labour in motion, of combining the work of many hands, of giving means and power of invention, of creating mechanical aids to labour, and ultimately distributing wealth, when it has been produced, to the greatest possible extent. It also incites improvements in machinery, for without capital the inventor cannot produce the improvements he has made. These improvements cause the employment of a more skilled and therefore better paid labour, and if such improvements reduce the cost of an article which is in large demand, they ultimately tend to the increase of the number of labourers, though at first they may appear to have the contrary effect. Without labour capital would be comparatively useless, and so upon the one depends the other. Now we come to the question: what is labour? Labour, like every other commodity, is simply a matter of sale or purchase. It has a natural price and a market price. The natural price of labour is that which just suffices, and no more, to provide the labourer and his family with the necessaries of life. The market price of labour depends upon the measure which the capital applied to the employment of labour bears to the number of labourers. If the measure of capital be great, the competition of capitalists must raise wages; and if the measure be small, the competition for employment by labourers, amongst each other, must reduce the price of wages. Should the accumulation of capital proceed more rapidly than the increase of population, wages would increase, and the condition of the working classes must continually advance, until either a check is given to the increase of capital, or until the growth of population, stimulated by a high rate of wages, should so far increase as to alter the relative proportion of capital and labour, and reduce the market rate of wages to the natural rate. Passing on to the question of wages, I am led to the consideration of the subject of strikes, which, for the most part, arise from a desire on the part of the artisan to secure an increase in the rate of wages. I contend that every man has a right to sell his own labour at just what price he feels entitled to demand, but that no one has a right to prevent others from selling their labour at any price they may choose to value it at.

I am one of those who think that strikes temperately conducted, cannot, upon principle, be condemned, being often a protection for the working classes; but where combinations of workmen, headed, as they frequently are, by the more skilled and best paid among them, endeavour to carry out their particular views by threats, or molestation of their less skilled and less paid companions, then I hold such combinations to be unjust. It has been suggested that Courts of Arbitration should be established to settle disputes, and Lord ——— has introduced a bill for that purpose, and I am willing to give that experiment every trial it can fairly deserve; but I confess that I am not one of those who think at present that the experiment is likely to succeed. I would rather trust to the good sense, justice, and liberality of the master to make the hire worthy of the labourer, and to the justice and intelligence of the labourer not to demand a higher rate of wages than the investment of capital, and the risk attending it, would enable the master to give. I have thought it right to give you my ideas on these subjects, in the hope that, as I am addressing a party of the working classes, you may take these things to heart. I also think it right, in view of the coming election, to place my opinions before you, with the idea, that if they were not your opinions, you could exercise as you best know how your opinions to put mine down. However, if, on the other hand, you should think that my opinions coincide with your own, then I ask you to give me the benefit of your good wishes and your good feeling. For ——— years I have been one of those who have endeavoured, by all the humble means within my power, to promote and advance the welfare of the working classes. I never have, and never will, flatter them at the expense of the other classes of the community. I have always told them that I believed them to be impulsive, that I knew them to be apt to be led away by the specious arguments of "professing" friends, and I believe in many instances their first impressions were not always right; but I also believe that, though impulsive, when the working classes come to consider matters calmly, they judge wisely, and they are as open to conviction as any other class, and as readily come to a sound conclusion.

LAYING THE FIRST STONE FOR A HOME FOR CONVALESCENTS, AND ERECTING A STATUE.

THE CHAIRMAN: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It is my duty, as chairman of the committee of the subscribers to this memorial, and entrusted with the distribution of the money, to remind some of you, and to inform others, in a few words, of the purpose of our meeting here together this day. When, years ago, it pleased God to take to Himself the late ——— there was one general and most spontaneous expression of public opinion amongst his neighbours throughout the whole county of ———, who were desirous that some permanent memorial might be established to remind them and future ages of the virtues of that excellent man. Whilst some of us desired that that memorial should be presented in a form that

might be called a living man—his features and his figure—others were rather desirous that the memorial should be one that should remind them of the benevolence of his character and of all the virtues for which he was distinguished. After some long consultation, it was agreed that we would have both the one and the other. Accordingly, there now stands in the market-place of the county town of ———, a figure wrought in the highest walk of art, which no one passes by without involuntarily being reminded of ——— himself. The other memorial is that which we happily **this day** inaugurate in this place. Now, it is not a sanitarium—it is not a rival of the excellent hospital which has been built in this town of ———, but it is a place where those who have been afflicted with infirmity and disorder may, by the blessing of God, accomplish their recovery by medical assistance, and may be restored to a perfect state of health before their return to their ordinary dwellings, many of which, as we well know, are unprovided even with the common necessities and comforts, without which their health can hardly be re-established. I must say, in the presence of a large assembly of the neighbours of ———, and of the inhabitants of that town, that the manner in which they have kindly attended here to-day, and responded to the invitation which I had the honour to send, has given me a great hope that the good feeling which is shown here to-day may not be of a transitory and evanescent kind, but that it may follow the fortunes of the Home for years to come, that it may help us to give it a more ornamental appearance, and supply it with all the necessary furniture. Being thus on the spot, I am sure it will be in their power greatly to conduce to the success of our undertaking. Now, it was finally resolved that this should be the spot, and the day was fixed. There remained only one choice to make—who should be the man that should be entrusted with the laying of the first stone. You will not be surprised if I say at once, and without hesitation, with the greatest accordance, all of us made application to my friend—the representative of the name and, I trust, hereafter the representative of the virtues of his father—to come here to-day to lay this stone. I shall not at the moment say one word of ———. He has a hard task for a young man to perform; in doing it he will carry with him something more than goodwill—the attachment, I am sure, of every one of his countrymen. Nor shall I venture in this open spot to add one word with regard to ——— beyond this, that that kind, good, friendly lady is here on the spot to give us the sanction of her presence, and to see for herself with what cordial affection the memory of her husband is regarded. Now permit me, all of you, my friends, with hearts filled with the memory of the past, filled with the best hopes for the future, trusting to the Divine blessing to turn out the work we now begin for the benefit of our suffering fellow-creatures, to call upon my noble friend, ———, to do that part which is assigned to him; and in doing it, I am sure that every single person here will raise up a prayer to God that the rest of his life may be like its beginning. But, before the actual work is done, let us all, with one voice and one heart, raise our spirits to that source from whence alone permanent good can come, that God may be pleased to give His blessing to the work.

Mr. ——— duly laid the stone. He said :—It is with great pleasure that I have been asked this day to lay the foundation stone of a building to be erected as a memorial of my late father. A better or more fitting memorial could not have been chosen than this, which is for the relief of the sick poor; for all my father's life was spent in relieving suffering, which is an example, I trust, that his successors will follow. I am glad this memorial has been chosen in connection with an institution in which he took the greatest interest, and gave up many of his engagements in order to attend at the committees of the hospital. I am glad also that the plan has been approved of by ———, whose name has long been associated with that of my father in promoting the welfare of the poor. To-day is the anniversary of his birthday, and therefore a very fit time to begin such a work. My dear mother and my father, during his life, were accustomed to some special work of charity and love that day. I wish to express, on behalf of my mother, my brothers, my sisters, and myself, our thanks and gratitude for your subscriptions to this fit and proper memorial to my father's name. We lay this stone of the ——— Home in the name and to the glory of the ever-blessed Trinity, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and in memory of one now gone to rest, who, during his day upon earth, was faithful in works of mercy, brotherly kindness, and charity.

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.

MEETING IN AID OF THE FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY FOR MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.

The Mayor in the Chair.

THE MAYOR: I must be permitted to express my regret that the chair is not this day occupied by a naval officer, or some one who could give personal testimony to the character, habits, and feelings of that large and important class of men whose interests we are assembled to promote. We often read narratives of sea disasters by shipwreck and fire, and discern striking traits of tenderness of feeling mixed with courage and generosity in the British sailor, and observe in him a combination of the lion and the lamb. I will not anticipate that which the meeting will hear of those men from the deputation from the Society organized to promote their welfare, but, before sitting down, I would call attention to one salient point, that point which appears to me to constitute the Society's strongest claims, and that is the helplessness of the merchant seamen, and the debt we owe them, for without them, what would become of our colonies and our commerce? What would become of our Channel Fleet? Where would England's power be? and how much longer would she be able to hold out the light of civilization? It is calculated that England owns in the various branches of her maritime trade 20,000 vessels, employing 180,000 sailors—men constantly upon the deep, which is at once their element and their home, and who are exposed to more frequent perils than ordinary men; and it is also calculated that 1,000 vessels are annually wrecked upon the

English shores. If their perils are imminent their privations are also many, for while the ships of the royal navy have their own chaplains, the men of the merchant service have but a few books; and, if they possess a Bible, have but little time to read it. Their minds are proverbially barren; yet they form part of ourselves—are our brothers and our servants; they guard our coasts, maintain our honour, and preserve our property, liberty, and our lives, bringing for us, from all parts of the earth, the necessities and luxuries with which our tables abound. Moreover, these men are our representatives; delegated by us, they go to distant countries, bringing down upon us, by their behaviour, a blessing or a curse—favouring or injuring our efforts to bring nations to the knowledge of Christ, and all mankind in subjection to His feet. The object of this Society is to convert the larger ports into centres of evangelical light, to form each into a parish with a floating chapel, to appoint to each a chaplain, and attach to it a boat by which apostolical ministration can be carried to vessels in the offing. Great are the benefits of the Society to the British sailor, who is invariably taken as a little boy from his parents' control, removed from his pastor in early life, and placed upon the deck of a ship, every man on board of which, from stem to stern, is proverbially an ungodly man.

MUTUAL BENEFIT BUILDING SOCIETIES.

GENTLEMEN,—I have had ——— years' experience in Building Societies in ———, and I am pleased to say, from my own personal knowledge of them, I do not think there ever was a time when they were more in public favour than at the present time. You have heard, and it is known to most of you, that since this Society was first started, some ——— years ago, there have been ——— or ——— new ones established in ———, and they all seem to be succeeding. All those Societies, which have started since the one we have met to congratulate each other upon—all seem to have met with very considerable success indeed. And to my own mind, that arises chiefly from the fact that very great care has been taken, and in the town of ——— particularly, to get the confidence of the public by having what might be termed sound, practical, and business-like men to manage the affairs and business of these societies. If you will only look at the names of the Directors of the Society, you will find well-known integrity and business tact and habits, and men who always stood before the public as men of sterling principles, and they then acquired a very large share of the public confidence in their society. When you consider the amount of money that has passed through the Treasurer's hands, and which the Directors had to manage, you will at once see that there are no misgivings on the part of the public generally as to the general character of the gentlemen whose names stand before you as Trustees and Directors. And when you consider that in ——— years there has been something like £. ——— worth of property pass through the hands of the Society, I really think that it is a fact in itself which shows that these societies are doing a great deal of good indeed. I think it is

a great inducement for working men to join such societies. And it is by making small investments in these societies that they will ultimately lead to habits of frugality, and give them a "stake in the hedge," which they will find worth their while to continue. Many persons at the present moment, but for these societies, would never have thought of purchasing their own houses. We have about £—— of mortgaged property, and have advanced about £—— in cash, so that the Directors have taken every possible care in seeing that your money is really managed in a business-like way. You will all reap a material benefit ultimately, and that is one of the great advantages attending these societies. You all know the work that devolves upon the Directors, who receive no greater benefit in a pecuniary point of view than other members who desire to further the interests of the Society. If the members feel disposed to interest themselves in the Society in the future, they will find the mode of entrance very easy; that is to say, each share is only £——, and they can manifest their interest in it by bringing it before the notice of their friends, and thus place it more prominently before that class of persons who will be most likely to be benefited by being identified with them.

Mr. ———: As one of the Auditors whose names appear on the balance-sheet, I have much pleasure in moving that the report be passed. In addition to moving that resolution, I must compliment Mr. ———, the Secretary, on the manner in which the accounts have been kept during the past year. In a society of this magnitude, there is much work for the Auditors to do, and I trust we have performed those duties in a satisfactory manner. And I particularly call your attention to the work of the Secretary, and the expenses of management of this Society, which you will find to amount to £——, which is rather less than ——— per cent. upon their transactions during the year. I think if many of our Stock Companies—whether limited or unlimited—had been managed equally prudently, they would not have found so many collapses or defalcations as the affairs of many of them presented during the past year. In moving the resolution, I can but express my gratification at the way in which the accounts have been kept and presented to us, inasmuch as the labour of the Auditors has been very materially lightened by the excellent mode Mr. ———, the Secretary, has adopted—not only is his method "Bookkeeping made Easy," but "Auditors' Labour made Easy."

Although as a rule I am not in favour of passing votes of thanks to paid officers, but at the same time, where the work is done thoroughly and satisfactorily, as it is in the present case, it is only right that the Secretary should have that meed of praise to which he is justly entitled, and I am sure it will encourage him to continue to discharge his duties as heretofore, and as much better as he possibly can. There are few men more practical and business-like than Mr. ———, and very much of the success of a society depends upon the Secretary; and it is in the recollection of you all of the manner in which Mr. ——— has conducted the meetings of this Society. I therefore congratulate Mr. ——— for the manner in which he has conducted the business, and I hope that he will be spared amongst us for many years longer.

SOUP CHARITY.

GENTLEMEN,—The advantages of this soup to the poor is well-known to all present who take any interest in its distribution; and the convenience to the poor of getting good soup ready made, is very great. To a poor man, who comes home to his meals, and who has but a little time to get them in, and perhaps has a large family and a sick wife, it is under these or any circumstances a great advantage to have a nutritious soup ready made, so that he can get his meals and feed his family by giving them wholesome food which will do them good. The charity has always been supported very liberally in ——. And I feel sure that funds will not be wanting on this occasion.

There are a very great number of men out of employ in ——, and there are only a few works of importance going on, and in fact, ——, as well as other places, is suffering from the ——, so it has been considered that the time has arrived to commence the distribution, and this meeting has been called for the purpose of collecting the necessary funds to enable the committee to carry out the object we have in view.

I apprehend that the paucity of persons in the room is not significant of the feelings of the town of —— upon this subject, for I consider this to be the most admirable charity we have, it does more real good for a small sum of money than any other in the town.

The public attention has been directed to the evils inseparable from indiscriminate almsgiving. It is notorious that indiscriminate and unsystematic charity saps the foundations of honesty, and stops many men from relying upon their labour. The Society which you support is one to which no objection whatever can be made, for it certainly dispenses charity in one of its best forms.

And I believe this Institution to be the best in the town. I have great confidence in the management of the committee, and particularly of our worthy Treasurer, who is a thorough man of business; and it is apparent that the Society is managed in a most satisfactory manner. I am quite sure that it will find acceptance with the lower classes, who obtained a greater amount of comfort from it than from any other charity in the town.

It is not for a moment to be supposed that in consequence of the weather which we now enjoy that it is not requisite for the soup kitchen to be opened. It is within my knowledge that there is an amazing amount of poverty at the present moment, arising from a variety of causes. I have made recent inquiries and inspection among the poor, and have found that pauperism is growing to an enormous extent, and at the present moment it is necessary that relief should be given. This charity saves a deal of suffering, and perhaps keeps men from want and crime.

I congratulate Mr. —— and Mr. —— on their lives being spared, especially Mr. ——, who, for so many years has so faithfully and so honourably filled his office without reward. I think the committee have made a very happy selection in the site of the new kitchen built last year in —— Street, and I ask those persons who subscribe to look in there one day when the soup is being made. It is one of the best kitchens in the town, and is

capitally situated. Nothing will please me better than to see the charity go on prosperously, as heretofore.

I audited the accounts the other day, and am happy to bear testimony how well they have been kept. It is a great thing, when persons give their money, to know that it is properly posted and taken care of, and we are greatly indebted to Mr. ——— for the manner in which they have been kept. Our Honorary Secretary is so well known to you all, that it is quite useless to say a word in his praise : but he gives a great amount of time to the work, and we are very much obliged to him for it. Some persons have said that this is not the time for soup-making, but I think we cannot do better than begin at once. We have a balance in hand, and that is an encouraging fact. Last year there was a very great demand for the soup, and sometimes the demand was greater than the supply, but that was not the fault of the committee in any way.

We are all greatly indebted to Mr. ——— for his valuable services in keeping the accounts. Some of the books are as large as those used in a merchant's counting-house, but they are nevertheless kept with the greatest regularity, and there is no difficulty in ascertaining anything one might require.

I can second the remarks of Mr. ———, that no charity is more mistaken than giving promiscuously in the streets ; and I trust that those who read the report of this day's proceedings will be induced to forego the very noxious habit of giving to beggars in the street. By subscribing to this charity they will do more good than they could in any other way.

I am much indebted to the banks, for they have at their own expense kept an account for us, even of the smallest sums, and have handed the money over to the committee and to Mr. ———, who is ever ready to render us assistance. I am quite certain we have not called the meeting too soon, for there is now a great deal of distress in the town, and I feel sure a good supply of soup will be taken this year,—no doubt a larger quantity than was taken from this charity last year. I ask those who are in the habit of giving, not only to give themselves, but to ask their friends to give also.

I am sure that there is at the present time more distress in ——— than there has been for some years. Being a guardian, I know that we have more people out of work this winter than we have had for many winters past. Upwards of ——— poor men have been sent upon the ——— to work for the parish, and most of them have large families. We have good workmen and labouring men come for relief, who would not come if they could get work. I think we have not begun the soup kitchen any too soon.

I know that the soup supplied to the poor seems to carry with it not only meat and bread, but even blankets and coals, for it warms as well as supports life ; and the manner in which the arrangements are carried out makes it popular even beyond the influence of our own town. I am glad that we have recognized the kind services of the banks, for their work is not at all small ; but there is also one more institution, which for many years has deserved our thanks, and that is the Water Company, which gives us their water free.

ANNUAL DINNER OF WORKMEN.

Toast and Speech by the Chairman.

GENTLEMEN,—I call upon the company to charge their glasses, to drink a bumper to the health, long life, and happiness of our liberal employer, and kind and hospitable entertainer, Mr. ———. I am quite aware that it needed no more than to mention that name to arouse the enthusiasm of this assembly. Looking around and seeing so many faces with which I have been so familiar for years, I am thankful—and I am sure you are all thankful—that our healths have been spared to do our kind master's service. And that reminds me, too, that this hospitality and happiness has been continued to us for many years in succession; and I am sure that you are all grateful for it. The past year has been one of great commercial depression, and many who have had to earn their bread by the sweat of their brow have felt the effect of it. But happily for the *employés* the ———, our work, has been going as cheerfully onward as ever. Not "Once a Week," but "All the Year Round." Full time and good wages have fallen to our lot—would that I could say as much for the *employés* of other firms in our line of business.

Although blessed with an abundance of the good things of this life, Mr. ——— is by no means an idle man. There is no handicraft so important as statecraft, and for the constituents of the Parliamentary borough of ——— he labours earnestly, heartily, and faithfully, to twelve o'clock at night, and sometimes to one or two in the morning, as the exigencies of the State require. Although so much engaged in Parliamentary duties, he is ever mindful of the comforts of his servants and others with whom he is connected. And you must not suppose that in this respect his field of labour is confined to ———, for he is spending large sums of money in supporting workmen in various other places, and recently he has been ———. There is no more liberal employer of artisans than Mr. ———. And he is most heartily seconded in every charitable work by his estimable lady, Mrs. ———.

Gentlemen, it affords me a vast deal of pleasure to see this unanimity existing between the employer and the employed; their interests are mutual, for they cannot exist without each other; they are in fact as twin brothers, named respectively Capital and Labour. And they do well in unison; but, like all brothers, when they are disunited they fall out and hurt each other very much—they are very spiteful. Then, again, after all their snapping and snarling, fighting, and scratching, they must come together again—simply because they cannot exist without each other.

I hope the day may be long distant when these happy gatherings are done away with; and may the day be still farther distant when we shall cease to have our excellent employer in our midst.

Gentlemen,—fellow-workmen,—join with me in a bumper to the health, happiness, and long life of Mr. ———, our employer, with musical honours.

PRESENTATION OF A TESTIMONIAL.

GENTLEMEN,—You are all sufficiently aware of the purpose for which we have met. It is to present a fellow-workman with a substantial testimony of the respect we entertain for him.

Mr. ———, when he was amongst us, was always ready with a kind word and helping hand to assist any movement for the benefit of those who were under his command. I very much regret to see him so unwell, and sincerely hope that before long he will again be restored to that robust state of health which he formerly enjoyed.

Mr. ———, I am sure, will not look at the intrinsic value of the testimonial so much as he will at the feelings which prompted its presentation, and being the gift of ——— men with whom he has been employed, is a proof that he is very much respected. It is not always an enviable position to be placed in—that of a foreman over a large number of men; therefore, as this testimonial has been subscribed for some time after Mr. ——— left the works, it shows that there is something more than ordinary in him to have retained the affection of those who were formerly under him. I now call upon Mr. ———, one of the workmen, to present the testimonial, on behalf of himself and fellow-subscribers.

Mr. ———; I had not the slightest expectation when I entered the room that I should be called upon to perform such a duty as this, and I wish that it had been deputed to one who had been longer associated with Mr. ———. I, however, willingly accept the task, having worked with Mr. ——— for ——— years, and my experience of him during that time is that he was kind and considerate to all under him. As Mr. ——— has said, the balance of power had to be delicately held where there were ——— or ——— men to rule, and Mr. ——— has always discharged his duty with much kindness, great consideration, and a large amount of forbearance. There is not a man on the works who does not regret that his connection with Mr. ——— is severed, especially the circumstances which caused that severance; and we all desire that he will be long spared to enjoy the society of his many friends, and, trusting that he will be successful in his new enterprise, and hope that his future will be as prosperous as his past. The testimonial consists of a ——— containing ——— sovereigns, together with a list of the subscribers: and it is to be hoped that should he at any time become depressed, a glance at those names will give him mental comfort, while the contents of the box will produce material comfort. I will now conclude by saying that I feel that an honour was conferred upon me by selecting me to present such a gratifying testimonial to such an old, well-tried, and respected servant.

Mr. ———: I can endorse the sentiments expressed by the last speaker, and say they are entertained by the men throughout the whole of the departments. I know no man who is more respected than Mr. ———, who has always been more careful and considerate of others than he has of himself, and it is exceedingly gratifying to see that that kindness is appreciated, and not thrown away.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—As the occasion which has called us together to-night is patent to you all, it would be but useless occupation of your time for me to enlarge thereon. I shall, therefore content myself by simply stating, that we are assembled in accordance with the wish of the subscribers to the testimonial now before us.

It is at all times, gentlemen, a pleasing task to do honour to those we esteem, but the pleasure manifestly increases when we find that this esteem is shared by so large a body as those who form the subscribers in the present case; but in proportion as the pleasure increases, so does the diffidence one feels when called on, as I am, to be the exponent of the feelings of the subscribers. Now, sir, there may be many, and doubtless are, who by their abilities are far more competent than myself to discharge the duty I have undertaken, but there is no man living to whom I will yield one grain of the estimation I hold for our friend, the object of our meeting to-night. Taking, then, my labour as a labour of love, for it assuredly is so, I must carry you with me as I travel along, and ask you to take up the burden of my song, which shall be "honour to the worthy!" I will not dilate on the many good services rendered by our friend, or the upright and manly conduct that has characterized his course in life, winning for him as it has done the esteem of all. As a friend, as a man, as a citizen, he has gained golden opinions, and that fair fame that ever crowns the worker of good deeds. Were he not present, much more might be said and endorsed by every one here; as it is we must be content. And now, Mr. ———, the happy task is mine to present you, in the name of myself and the subscribers, with this ———. May your life be long to look on it as a feeble token of the high estimation formed of you by so many of your fellow-men, and when it shall please the great Architect of the universe to remove you from this life, may this ——— descend as an heirloom to your children, and stimulate them to a course that won for their ancestor the praise and respect of his fellow-men.

Response.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I thank the subscribers for the handsome testimonial which has been so kindly presented to me. The manner in which it has been done has robbed me of language which I deemed meet to express my feelings and gratitude. During the time that I was a foreman of the Company, I tried to do the most for my employers and those under me, and I am pleased to learn that my efforts have been so successful during the time I held my position. Gentlemen, when I first went to work for Mr. ——— I had not a grey hair on my head; now I should be troubled to find a black one. On entering the service I was only ——— years of age, and was appointed a foreman when I was ———, therefore, being now close upon ———, my connection with some of the workmen has not been brief, and it is gratifying to me that my length of service has secured me so many friends among those who were under me. I regret that I was not permitted to remain longer with them,—I have the will but not the health; and in again thanking you for your kind remembrance, I assure you I shall never forget the proceedings of this day.

Response.—*For a Testimonial presented to a Member who is about to leave his native town or country.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN,—I know not how to find words to thank you for the valuable present which you have made me; but I can assure you that when I had the honour of fulfilling the various offices to which I have been from time to time selected, I have endeavoured faithfully to discharge the duties appertaining to those offices, and it is the consciousness of this that makes me more fully appreciate the testimonial. If I have done my duty, you have also done yours—and done it nobly. When I look on the testimonial you have this evening presented to me, I shall ever think of the many happy hours I have spent among you. You are all aware that I go “To-morrow to fresh woods and pastures new,” that I am about to quit this, “My native land,” to seek in a foreign clime my future fortune. It is always a sad hard task to bid good-bye to friends. Can you wonder that it is very difficult for me to utter the earnest expression of what I feel in addressing you for the last time, friends, playmates, shopmates, and relations, and last, though not least, the brethren and visitors of this Lodge, from whom I have received so warm a welcome and such generous kindness, that I shall always speak and think of you as my best and dearest of friends? While I say this, I think on more than I behold. It is not alone the members of this Lodge to whom I wish to acknowledge my deep indebtedness, but to the members of the various Lodges in the town and district, and to several of the tradesmen; also to the liberal subscriptions to the testimonial; and the most unequivocal success has met, I am informed, the committee’s exertions in getting up this handsome testimonial you have been pleased to present me with. And I have to thank all present more than all for this social welcome, so genial, so heartfelt, which I shall ever cherish with affectionate regret; the remembrance of the scenes of this evening will ever be associated with your generous kindness. In all probability I shall never see you more. In a few days I leave my native country to seek, as I have before observed, “Fresh woods and pastures new.” But the joyous thought of again joining some of my nearest relatives, who have gone out to — before me, does not overmaster the deep sadness of my farewell to the members of this Lodge, with whom I have so long been connected, and who so cherished my dawning desire to fill the various offices I have had the honour of being elected to during my membership, to which early association has endeared me. Our great poet has sung of “benefits forgot”—mine will not be of them. In the quiet hours of home life, though far away, I shall think of you very, very often. I know there are those here to-night whose faces I have never seen, whose good wishes, nevertheless, go with me to my distant and new home. Again, sincerely thanking you, one and all, for this testimonial of your good wishes, I affectionately bid you farewell; also I say, God bless you! good-bye! and

Adieu, my native land, adieu!

The vessel spreads her swelling sails;

Perhaps I never more may view

Your fertile fields, your flowery dales.

ELECTIONEERING.

THE CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, in consequence of having presided at similar meetings for many years, I have been called upon this evening to take the chair; but I wish some other gentleman had been selected. I, however, shall have great pleasure in introducing to you my friend, Mr. ——. He is an honest man, and will represent your ——— interests in a most magnificent way. I have not seen such an address as Mr. ———'s from any candidate in the kingdom, although I have looked at them all, and if he keeps within the four corners of the paper I hold in my hand (Mr. ———'s address), he will be a man according to your hearts. We do not want "trimmers," as they are called; neither do we want men who will first vote on this side and then on the other; but men who will honestly represent you according to the promises contained in their addresses. It has been said by Mr. ———'s opponents that he is a mere modern convert. There is not the slightest truth in that. Mr. ——— has never exercised the franchise in any way whatever, and has never committed himself in the slightest degree in any vote he has given. It is said he is not the sort of ——— we of ——— could desire. What more can any man say for us than he has said in his address? He is for ———. What do you possibly want more than that? Those gentlemen who call themselves ——— are simply theoretical ———, sham ———, as I call them. To whom are we indebted for ———? To ——— and the ———, two of the greatest men England ever produced. These men were called bigoted ———, but they are no such thing. To whom are we indebted for ———? Not to quasi and theoretical ———, but to ———, who, after due consideration, consented to give it. We are not indebted to the ——— of the present day for the ———, but to the ———; the ——— is in nearly every man's hand.

GENTLEMEN,—I never came forward with greater pride and pleasure than I do on this occasion, in proposing Mr. ———. It is not necessary for me now to occupy your time in mentioning all the personal claims that Mr. ——— has to your confidence and support. You all know what Mr. ——— is. The name of ——— is not unknown in the county, and for several months past Mr. ——— has been doing all that one man can do in bringing openly and boldly before the electors himself and his opinions. He is the

representative of the true — party, who seek to benefit the country and preserve her institutions, not by obstructing change, but by supporting wise and judicious change. I caution you against a man who will make great profession of — and then do nothing afterwards, which has of late been the custom. There is another and a stronger reason why I support Mr. ——. I believe, in supporting him, we support our ——. If you wish, on the other hand, to support one who will vote for the abolition of the — Bill, if you wish to support a Ministry who, step by step, will fritter away all the wise safeguards provided for the —, do not vote for Mr. —, but vote for the other side. I consider I am performing a very honest duty in calling on all my brother electors to join with me in supporting Mr. —.

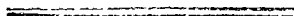
GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour of seconding the nomination of Mr. —. I will not detain you more than a few minutes, because it is unnecessary to enter into the political opinions of Mr. —, that gentleman having already so fully expressed his views before the electors of the county, and being shortly about to state them himself. This is a fair stand-up fight between two great parties in the county; the — did not provoke the contest, it has been thrown upon them by their opponents, who, as they had a perfect right to do, have brought forward a candidate for the second seat. The — have accepted the challenge, they are determined to fight it to the end, and, what is more, they are determined to win. I will call upon those who are attached to the institutions of the country, those who are opposed to — measures, and those who are in favour of the —, to give their support to the — candidates. I believe they will both be returned as the representatives of this great constituency.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the pleasure to propose Mr. —, who comes before you as one of that party which I believe to be the strictest supporters of our — institutions—the strictest supporters of — and —, namely, the — party. He will, I am sure, support to his utmost that constitution of which Englishmen are so proud, and those institutions which have upheld that constitution. He will advocate retrenchment—retrenchment as far as possible, consistent with the due maintenance of the defences of this country. He will support that most valuable, I may term it, institution of this country, the Volunteer force; and another matter will receive Mr. —'s early attention, if elected, namely, the subject of —. I am of opinion, and no doubt the honourable candidate is of the same opinion, that the — districts, with regard to education, have been very much neglected. The large manufacturing towns have received a very large proportion of the million of money which is every year devoted to extending education. In my own district I have the pleasure of supporting more than one school, but we are unable to obtain any assistance, because we cannot afford to pay masters who possess an amount of education far above what is required. Give the — a sound educa-

tion—let them study reading, writing, and arithmetic, and then they will become useful as well as more enlightened members of society.

GENTLEMEN,—I second the nomination of Mr. ———. In Mr. ——— you have presented to you a candidate second to none who has been brought forward throughout the whole of England. He is a man of whom a constituency might justly be proud. Mr. ———, from his cradle and in his early youth, gave promise of qualities of rare excellence, and in his manhood he has fully carried out the promise of his youth. Should you desire to be represented by a man of talents, a man of principle, a man of eloquence, and a man of character, who will proclaim ——— and ——— principles against ——— and ———, if you desire such a man, you will find him in Mr. ———. At times, when the constitution was assailed—that constitution which combined the efficiency of a monarchy with the freedom of a republic, without the despotism of one and the licentiousness of the other—if you love your country and its institutions, under which we have become a great power—I call upon you to maintain the honour of your country by returning the ——— candidates.

THE MAYOR : In the name of the Queen I declare ———, Esq., duly elected to serve as a Burgess in the Commons House of Parliament for the Borough of ———.



SPORTING.

Speeches at a Dinner of a Race Committee.—The Mayor in the Chair.

GENTLEMEN,—The origin of racing in this country dates from a very early period, the custom being generally believed to have been introduced by the Romans; but the records of its practice and progress in very early times are so vague and apochryphal that little dependence can be placed upon either their authenticity or veracity. Fitzstephen, who lived in the reign of Henry II., however, states that in his time they were of frequent occurrence in London. He tells us that horses were usually exposed for sale in West Smithfield; and, in order to prove the excellency of the most valuable hackneys and charging steeds, they were matched against each other.

In the middle ages certain seasons of the year were appointed for nobility to indulge themselves in running their horses—at Easter and Whitsuntide. "It had been customary," says a Chester antiquary, writing in the thirty-first year of Henry VIII., "time out of mind, upon Shrove Tuesday, for the Company of Saddlers belonging to the city of Chester to present to the drapers a wooden ball, embellished with flowers, and placed upon the point of a lance." This ceremony was performed in the presence of the mayor, at the cross in the "Roodhee," or "Roody"—an open place near the city; "but this year," continues he, "the ball was changed into a ball of silver, valued at 3*s.* 6*d.*, or more, to be given to him who should run the best and the farthest on horseback before them upon the same day."

At the commencement of the reign of Elizabeth, racing, which had drooped considerably during that of Mary, was restored to all its pristine vigour; and, furthermore, it is related that it was carried to such excess as to injure the fortunes of the nobility. This circumstance, as is usual in such cases, gave the sport itself a bad odour; and numerous were the ponderous arguments levelled at its devoted head by the reverend, the learned, and the great. Lord Herbert, of Cherbury, enumerated racing among the sports which he thought unworthy of a man of honour:—

"The exercise," says he, "I do not approve of in running of horses, there being so much cheating in that kind; neither do I see why a brave man should delight in a creature whose chief use is to help him to run away."

Public horse-races were not, however, established until the reign of James II. At this period races were instituted. The prize awarded to the owner of the successful horse was a little golden bell, which probably gave origin to the common phrase, to "bear the bell."

About the reign of Charles I. races were performed in Hyde Park and at Newmarket; and after the Restoration they were revived and much encouraged by Charles II. In this reign the bells were converted into cups or bowls, &c.

From this period up to our own time horse-racing has increased both in extent and importance, and courses are established all over the kingdom. The Jockey Club is recognized as the supreme adjudicator of all turf affairs, and upon the members of that body devolves the duty and responsibility of prescribing rules for the maintenance of order, regularity, and fairness.

The racehorse of our own day differs materially from the animals employed prior to the reign of Queen Anne—the latter being generally clumsy and ungainly, though by no means devoid of strength and ability. Indeed, the different manner in which races have come to be conducted called for some alteration in the qualities of the animal. Formerly, four and five-mile heats were of no unusual occurrence, while now the most important of our races—the Derby—is only run upon a two-mile course: thus it will be seen, that while in the first case extraordinary lasting qualities were required, in the latter it becomes merely a question of speed.

The first Arabian horse which was introduced into England, of which we have any authentic account, was in the reign of James I.; and was in the possession of a Mr. Markham, merchant, from whom he was purchased by the King for the sum of £50 sterling. The intermixture of Arabian blood has been the most important cause of effecting this alteration. The next mention that we find of the introduction of the pure Arabian breed occurred about the beginning of the reign of Queen Anne.

English racehorses at the present day are greatly esteemed throughout Europe. The form of the head of the English racer resembles that of the Arabian; the neck is beautifully arched (one of the greatest beauties in the horse); his shoulders are oblique and lengthened; his hind legs are well proportioned; his quarters ample and muscular; his whole legs, from the knee downwards sufficiently graduated—

Fine by degrees, and beautifully less.

Racing has now become a business of so much importance, in a national point of view, as being a stimulus to the maintenance of a breed of horses for which this kingdom is so justly celebrated; and as the interests of the public and those immediately concerned are so identified with every circumstance which may tend to increase or diminish its success, whoever points out any defects in the present system renders a service not only to those engaged in turf affairs, but to the world at large.

Toast.—By the Chairman.

GENTLEMEN,—It now devolves upon me the task to propose a toast which more immediately concerns ourselves, and that is, "Prosperity to the ——— Races and Race Committee." To go back to the history of the ——— Races would be to go back to the history of ——— itself. Every one, I am sure, is so well acquainted with the exertions which the gentlemen comprising the Committee have made to uphold the races, and also with the labour and time it entailed upon them, that I need not eulogize them to ensure the toast being drunk with enthusiasm; still I may say that racing and field sports are so closely bound up with the interests of England, that I hope neither one nor the other will ever die out. Coupled with the toast of "Prosperity to the ——— Races and Race Committee," I will mention the name of Mr. ———, the Honorary Secretary.

Response.—By the Hon. Secretary.

GENTLEMEN,—I respond to the last toast with a great deal of pleasure; for I feel a great interest in ——— Races, and I am much pleased to say that the good wishes of the past have been answered, and I can but hope that those of the present will be also. Not to inflict upon the company a long financial statement, I will briefly remark that the amount of public money given in ——— is ——— to the highest in the kingdom. The other day it was stated in a sporting paper, and held out as an inducement to support the ——— meeting, because they gave £—— public money; and I will here mention that that was to be run for in ——— days; but ——— gave £—— to be run for in ——— days. It is said that "money makes the mare to go," but I hope it will cause the horses to come; and I am sure that if the efforts of the Committee are only seconded liberally by the town, our future will be crowned with success, and the ——— Races be second to none in the kingdom.

GENTLEMEN,—Mr. ——— proposed "Prosperity to the Races and Trade of ———." The Races are an important feature in the amusements of the town, and I would urge on the people of ——— not to let them drop. Don't let gentlemen from Exeter Hall put you off the races, nor be bullied into the idea that racing is wrong. It is of no use for people with new-fangled notions in their heads to say that men get drunk and women misbehave themselves; but, if they do, the real reason is, that the people so seldom have any recreation at all. I shall always be happy to lend my support to these races, which have progressed very favourably, and I trust will develop to something still more important.

GENTLEMEN,—I am taken by surprise in being called upon to respond on behalf of the last toast. It is a very long time since I had the honour and pleasure of doing so; but perhaps I am the most proper person for the task present, as my whole life has been spent here, for I was reared in the town of ———, and have risen with it. I wish the inhabitants would understand more fully the

importance of the races and other amusements, and also that all money brought into —— circulates through every part; and that it is their duty to support all things which attract or bring visitors to the town. I am sorry that many, because they do not derive an interest directly through the races, the foxhounds, the harriers, or the cricket matches, do not feel disposed to subscribe to those amusements; but I can tell them that every farthing subscribed circulates in every small vein of the town.

Toast.—By the Mayor.

GENTLEMEN,—I now propose, “The Health of Mr. ——,” who is so intimately connected with the various sports. Having been a trading man in —— for some years, I am entitled to speak with some authority, and I believe the town is very largely indebted to the Foxhounds and the Harriers for its prosperity in the winter season. I need hardly state that it is no sinecure to conduct a pack of foxhounds, for it draws largely upon a man’s purse and a man’s time; and the town, therefore, ought to feel deeply indebted to any gentleman who conducts such an establishment.

Response.

GENTLEMEN,—I hardly expected to have been called upon to address the company, but I feel gratified at what has been done, and thank you for the honour. I can say of hunting what I said of racing, that it is one of the peculiar characteristics of Englishmen, and which I trust will always be upheld. Had I not thought that a little hunting near this large town was necessary for the visitors, I would not have undertaken the management of the —— Foxhounds, which I have now had for —— years; but I have been looking out for a successor, and I hope that I shall find one, for this part of the county is dependent upon its amusements, and I will always do all in my power to keep up a pack of foxhounds and support the races.

Speeches and the Business at a Cricket Club Dinner.
The Chairman.

GENTLEMEN,—I have now to propose, “Success to the —— Cricket Club.” I have no statistics by me, or I might have been able to have introduced a few dry figures for your *edification*; (?) but suffice it to say, that we have during the past season played about the usual number of matches, and out of them have won about as many as we expected to have done. Now, of all the English athletic games, none perhaps presents so fine a scope for bringing into full and constant play the qualities both of the mind and body as that of cricket. A man who is essentially stupid will not make a fine cricketer; neither will he who is not essentially active. He must be active in all his faculties: he must be active in mind, to prepare for every advantage; and active in eye and limb, to avail himself of those advantages. He must be cool-tempered,

and, in the best sense of the term, *manly*, for he must be able to endure fatigue, and to make light of pain; since, like all athletic sports, cricket is not unattended with danger, resulting from inattention and inexperience. The accidents, however, attendant upon the players at cricket commonly arise from unwatchfulness or slowness of eye. A short-sighted person is as unfit to become a cricketer as one deaf would be to discriminate the most delicate gradations and varieties in tones; added to which, he must be in constant jeopardy of serious injury.

Those who are acquainted with some of the remote and unfrequented villages of England, where the primitive manners, customs and games of our ancestors survive in the perfection of rude and unadulterated simplicity, must have remarked the lads playing at a game which is the same in its outline and principal features as the consummate piece of perfection that at this day is the glory of "Lord's" and the pride of English *athletæ*,—I mean the one in which a single stick is appointed for a wicket, ditto for a bat, and the same repeated, of about three inches in length, for a ball. If this be not the original of the game at cricket, it is a plebeian imitation of it.

The constitution of this pastime has undergone considerable alterations and improvements since it has become a favourite and fashionable recreation. Even till as late as the year 1770, for instance, the wicket had consisted of two stumps, when a *third*, the centre one, was added,—a decided improvement, seeing that it multiplied the chances to the batter of being bowled out, consequently increased the difficulty of his position, and thereby exalted his maintaining it for any length of time into the greater merit; for under the old system, if the ball passed between the stumps, the batter was not considered out: under the improved system, such an event cannot happen; for the three stumps are not pitched at so great a distance from each other as to allow of the transit of the ball without knocking off the bale, which decides the fate and existence of the batsman. The bale, too, which crowns the stumps, formerly consisted of a single piece of wood, and therefore required a considerable concussion of the ball to remove it, without which the batter cannot be declared to be out; it is now divided in the centre, and consequently a very slight agitation of either of the outside stumps will displace the one half resting upon it: and this is equally fatal to the batsman as if the two were knocked off.

The formation of the bat has also undergone considerable change and improvement. In an old code of "the Laws of Cricket, revised at the Star and Garter, Pall Mall, on February 25, 1774, by a committee of noblemen and gentlemen," the rules and directions are prefaced by a woodcut of the bat then in use, by which it appears that it was curved, and the face flat.

The modern bat is not only perfectly upright, but its face is convex, which again increases the difficulty to the player; for, in striking the ball, unless he meet it directly in the centre of his bat, the chances are many that, from the convexity in the face of the bat, the ball will fly off in a diagonal line, and the player may be caught out. The mode of holding the bat has changed with its

alteration of form; the chief injunction now being to a young player, to keep his bat as upright as possible.

With these remarks on the game of cricket, I will conclude by calling on you—as I am sure you will—to unite with me in wishing “Success to the —— Cricket Club,” and in connection with the toast will mention the name of Mr. ——, the Captain.

Response.—By the Captain.

GENTLEMEN,—My name having been coupled with the last toast, I rise to respond to it, though I think the duty ought to have devolved upon the Honorary Secretary. As Captain of the Eleven, I have had frequent opportunities of seeing how successful the Club has been; and I hope that the same may be said at the close of next year's cricket. The Chairman has said so much on the game of cricket, that he has completely “stumped me out” from making any further observations. I will therefore conclude by thanking you all for your good wishes, and calling upon you to drink to “The Health of our Vice-President.”

Response.—By one of the Members, for the Vice-President.

GENTLEMEN,—I cannot allow this toast to pass without acknowledging it on the part of one whom we all know, not only as a good cricketer, but as a genial friend, and one ever ready to assist any one who might require his aid. We already feel how deep our loss is in missing for the time his ever cheerful presence; and though I regret to state that he is very ill, yet I trust that our unanimous good wishes so earnestly expressed may be fulfilled, and that we shall once more see him amongst us.

Toast.—“THE HONORARY SECRETARY.”

GENTLEMEN,—I have now to propose the health of one who has a most arduous and unthankful office to fulfil in connection with the Club, but who, nevertheless, carries out the duties of his honorary office in the most admirable and praiseworthy manner. I allude to “The Honorary Secretary, Mr. ——,” who at all times studies the interests of the Club.

Response.—By the Hon. Secretary.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to acknowledge the last toast, also to acknowledge that the office I hold is no sinecure. But as “the labour we delight in physics pain,” I may add that it is a great pleasure to perform the duties for a club of which each member is a gentleman. The greatest difficulty I have is in getting the members selected for a match to take their respective parts in it. Sometimes when a match is to be played, not one only, but two or three members do not make their appearance. Then, again, some of the members arrive on the ground very late—an unpardonable offence in a cricketer and a gentleman; and who should learn that the poet—one Longfellow—has asked, “What is time?” and replied, “The

shadow on the dial—the striking of the clock—the running of the sand—day and night—summer and winter—months, years, and centuries. These are but outward and arbitrary signs—the measure of time, not time itself. Time is the life of the soul; if not this, then tell me what is time?” Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, the answer is simple. Time; is “THE TIME” mentioned by the Honorary Secretary of a Cricket Club in his circular note to its members. Now, in our last match against —— Club, we played with sixteen instead of twenty-two against THE ELEVEN, and I believe it is the first time the smaller number has been beaten by the larger. I have to thank the company for the honour done me in drinking my health.

Toast.—“THE GROUND BOWLER.”

GENTLEMEN,—“The Health of the Ground Bowler,” who, though getting a little old, is a “good-un” yet, and can manage to put in a pretty straight ball, in spite of a little touch of the rheumatism every winter, as most of you know practically. In fact, I believe him to be something like the trees—he comes out afresh every spring. I almost think that there must be a little of the evergreen in him, for there seems to be as much energy in him as ever each succeeding May. Every winter we hear the same old, old story, and every spring we find how little truth there is in it. I believe Mr. —— will be good for a dozen years to come.

Response.

GENTLEMEN,—In returning thanks for the last toast, I must say that no man can be better supported than I have been by the members of the Club, and while I can send a ball straight to the wicket, or am able to handle a bat, I shall be proud to be a member of the—— Cricket Club. At the same time, I feel bound to confess that my arms are not so lithe sometimes as they used to be; in fact, I rather suspect that I am getting a little old. But as I happen to belong to—

A hardy race of mortals, train'd to sports;
The field their joy, unpolish'd yet by Courts,

I may be good enough to be with you, as our worthy Chairman has said, a dozen years to come.

Toast.—“THE WORTHY HOST.”

GENTLEMEN, — I have now to propose “The Health of Mr. ——, the Worthy Host,” who has on so many former occasions catered for us, and I much regret that there are not more to partake of the good things provided. I think the members of the Club ought on such an occasion to rally round one who has done so much for them. They ought to recollect how many difficulties and risks a person holding such a position has to put up with; and therefore it would have given me much pleasure to have seen the room better filled.

Speeches and the Business of a Regatta Dinner.

GENTLEMEN,—Having disposed of the routine toasts, we now come to number ——— on the programme; and which may be justly termed the toast of the evening, it being, “Success to ——— Regatta of 18—.” That which has just taken place is the ——— annual Regatta; and I am happy to say that we have ever progressed—have never fallen back. True, the Committee certainly did, from a laxity of paying up on the part of some of the subscribers, think it proper somewhat to curtail their expenses, as also the amount to be given in prizes on the last occasion; hence it happened that, the subscriptions having after all come in well, they had a larger balance in hand than they intended to have had. Last year, at the wind-up, we had a balance in hand of £——, we have since received as subscriptions £——, and as entries for boats £——. The subscriptions this year are more than they were last, the entries are also a little more, while, as I have explained, the prizes and expenses are somewhat less; so that now we have a balance in hand of £——. I can take no credit to myself in the matter. I am simply Treasurer, and as such my duty is to take care of the funds for you. But the person who does the real work is the gentleman whose name I intend to couple with the toast—Mr. ———, the Honorary Secretary. Although I am associated with him as an officer of the Committee, yet my duties are comparatively slight, while those of the Secretary are very heavy. But I must take this credit to myself, that I was the person who proposed Mr. ——— for the office of Secretary some years ago. I am glad you reciprocate my own feelings towards Mr. ———; a proof of this is shown in the very handsome testimonial which it now becomes my duty to present to him. This testimonial is not to be regarded in the light of a payment for services rendered, but simply as a slight testimony of his work and of the esteem we all feel for him. I have great pleasure in stating that the Committee have made me their mouthpiece for presenting it; and, without further preface, I now present it to Mr. ———, hoping he will use it for many years to come. I trust the ——— will be handed down to his children’s children, so that they may remember the time of their father doing his duty to his town and county, and try to emulate him. If they do so, they will come to eminence.

Response.—By the Hon. Secretary.

GENTLEMEN,—I feel very proud of the testimonial with which you have just presented me, and I am better pleased to find that I have given satisfaction to the Committee, with whom I have had so many pleasant meetings, and have worked so harmoniously. This is the first testimonial in connection with the ——— Regatta that has been presented, and the kind way in which this has been presented has deprived me of words to express my feelings in a manner I should wish to have done; but I know you will all bear with me, and excuse any shortcomings on my part: my heart is so full of gratitude, that I am deprived of utterance, and lack words to express my innermost thoughts. Again I sincerely thank you for your

kindly feelings and this handsome testimonial; and, in conclusion, desire to propose to you "The Health of the Chairman." I have seen him in various capacities during many years, and have ever found him to be ready to assist in anything for the prosperity of the town and trade of ———; I have found him to be one of the best fellows I ever met either in private or public life. I have never asked him to do this or that in connection with the ——— Regatta, but that he did all in his power to carry out my wishes to the letter. As regards the Regatta, I have had the credit of doing a great deal, but Mr. ——— has materially assisted me, and I fully appreciate his services, as I feel you all must; and I now call upon you to drink his health in a bumper.

Response.—By the Chairman.

GENTLEMEN,—As Chairman of the ——— Regatta, my humble services are always at your command, and any assistance that may be required from me either publicly or privately. I feel as much pleasure in giving those services as you can possibly have in receiving them. The success of these regattas shows unmistakably that the ——— people are men of great power when they choose to put their shoulder to the wheel. The Committee is small, but they have done great things. The superior pleasure afforded by the ——— Regatta over that of any other regatta on the ——— coast has manifested itself over and over again. Still there is plenty of room for improvement; and although the ——— Club has been again defeated by the members of our own, we must always look upon the ——— Club as a dangerous rival, and, if we wish to maintain our laurels, must keep up our practice and training; for although ——— is defeated to-day, they are by no means disgraced, and another meeting may alter the present state of affairs; so I bid you "beware." Coming events are said to cast their shadows before them. I will now call on you to drink to "The ——— Crew," and will couple the name of Mr. ——— with the toast.

Response.—By a Member of the ——— Crew.

GENTLEMEN,—In rising to respond to the toast of "The ——— Crew," I have to thank the members of the ——— Club, and the gentlemen present, for the kind and enthusiastic manner in which they have received the toast, and also your worthy and excellent Chairman for the "good words" spoken on behalf of the crew of the ——— and the ——— Club. The race of the day has been fairly and honourably contested, and I feel—as observed by the Chairman—that although we have been beaten, we are not disgraced; we were beaten fairly on our merits, and must yield again to the superior tact and skill of the crew of the ———. As you are aware that our Regatta is fixed for the ———, we of the ———, with other crews, will meet again, when we shall "row our row over again. I, as a member of the ——— Club, can but hope that we shall be able to wrest from the crew of the ——— that proud distinction they now

so honourably hold. The victory is now with them by right of conquest, but, as "the race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chances happeneth to them all," the wish is father to the thought when I say, that I hope we may as honourably, on that day, beat the crew of the ——— as they have defeated us to-day. In speaking on behalf of the crew of the ———, who obtain the second prize, I should wish to add a few words, and "kind words" to the crews of the ——— and the ———; and will conclude by proposing—with the kind permission of the Chairman—"The Unsuccessful Crews," coupling with it the name of Mr. ——— and Mr. ———.

Response.—By one of the Unsuccessful Crew.

GENTLEMEN,—Mr. ——— has said so much and so well on behalf of the ——— match and its results, that he has fairly taken the wind out of my sails, and left me nothing to speak about. On behalf of "The Unsuccessful Crews," I have to thank you for the toast and the manner in which you have been pleased to receive it. We of the ——— are but a young crew, and could scarcely hope to get a better position in the race than we did; but as practice makes perfect, we yet hope to be enabled in another year to come nearer to the winning point than we have on this occasion. But whether we return home as "defeated" or "successful" crews, we always carry home with us a lively recollection of the kind treatment and the gentlemanly consideration we invariably meet with from the ——— Club, and the inhabitants of the town of ———; and though—

'Tis not in mortals to command success;
Yet we'll do more,—we'll deserve it.

Gentlemen, again on behalf of the crew of the ——— I thank you; also on behalf of the crews of the ——— and the ———, who have had to leave by an early train.

SWIMMING.

Toast.—"SUCCESS TO THE ——— SWIMMING CLUB."

GENTLEMEN,—The ——— Swimming Club was established in 18—, for the purpose of teaching and encouraging the useful art of Swimming; awarding prizes at public matches; to have at hand all the necessary apparatus for saving life and rendering assistance in the time of danger; and has been eminently successful in each of its branches.

The members give their services *con amore*, relying on their patrons for support to extend and perpetuate the acknowledged usefulness of such an institution in the borough of ———.

Swimming is the most useful of all athletic accomplishments. That every boy ought to be taught the art there can be no question, as it is not only useful for self-preservation, but also in saving the lives of others. It promotes health and strength by invigorating the body, and stimulating the skin to the healthy and uninterrupted

performance of its many and important offices. All animals, except the camel, swim naturally. Man is the only perfect animal who has to learn the art of swimming. Those who cannot swim, when immersed in water, fall a sacrifice to its powerful influence by raising their arms out or above it, the weight of which has the effect of depressing the head, and drowning ensues. A boy, no matter how young, acquiring the art of swimming, retains it through life, for, once learnt, it is never forgotten. To learn to swim there is no difficulty, when properly instructed from the first. Sea is preferable to rivers, as salt water has the greater buoyancy, thereby enabling the learner the more easily to retain the almost horizontal position which is necessary to bring his efforts to a successful issue.

Our foreign neighbours seem fully to understand the value of swimming, as regular schools in which it is specially taught are established in Paris, Vienna, Berlin, Munich, and numerous other continental towns and cities, where it is considered a very important and essential portion of the education of youth. Happily, our own legislators have been made sufficiently aware of the importance of swimming, and have recommended all large and populous towns to adopt Public Baths, the expenses to be paid for out of the rates of the parish in which the baths are situated.

The object of the —— Club is to raise swimming from its comparative obscurity; and the means proposed to attain that end are—first, to afford every facility for instruction in the art; and, secondly, to reward merit and encourage emulation by competition.

Join with me in the toast of "Success to the —— Swimming Club," and with that toast I couple the name of Mr. —— as [Captain, Swimming Master, or Honorary Secretary].

I saw him beat the surges under him,
And ride upon their backs; he trod the water,
Whose enmity he flung aside, and breasted
The surge most swollen that met him: his bold head
'Bove the contentious waves he kept, and oar'd
Himself with his good arms, in lusty stroke,
To the shore.

ARCHERY.

ANNUAL MEETING, OR AT THE DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES OF THE —— ARCHERY CLUB.

Speech.—By the Chairman.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—The toast I have the honour to propose to you is one which I am sure will command your attention; but previous to my giving it to you, you will perhaps allow me to give you a few historical facts in connection with Archery.

In this island, archery was greatly encouraged in former times, and many statutes were made for the regulation thereof; whence

the English archers became the best in Europe, and obtained many signal victories. The Artillery Company of London, though they have long disused the weapon, are the remains of the ancient bowmen or archers. Artillery (*artillerie*) is a French term, signifying archery; as the King's bowyer was in that language styled *artillier du roy*. And from that nation the English seem to have learnt at least the use of the cross-bow. William the Conqueror had a considerable number of bowmen in his army, when no mention is made of such troops on the side of Harold. And it is supposed that these Norman archers shot with the arbalist, or cross-bow, in which formerly the arrow was placed in a groove, termed in French a quarrel, and in English a bolt.

Philip de Comines acknowledges what our own writers assert, that the English archers excelled those of every other nation; and Sir John Fortescue says, "The safety of the realme of England standyth upon archers." And hence the superior dexterity of their archers gave the English a great advantage over their capital enemies, the French and Scots.

The Normans used the bow as a military weapon; and under their government the practice of archery was not only much improved, but generally diffused throughout the kingdom.

In the ages of chivalry, the usage of the bow was considered as an essential part of the education of a young man who wished to make a figure in life.

The ladies also were fond of this amusement; and by a curious representation, from an original drawing in a manuscript of the fourteenth century, we see it practised by one who has shot at a deer, and wounded it with great adroitness; and in another previous engraving, the hunting equipments of the female archers about the middle of the fifteenth century are represented.

It was usual, when the ladies exercised the bow, for the beasts to be confined by large enclosures, surrounded by the hunters, and driven in succession from the covers to the stands where the fair sportswomen were placed, so that they might readily shoot at them without the trouble and fatigue of rousing and pursuing them. It is said of Margaret, the daughter of Henry VII., that when she was on her way towards Scotland, a hunting party was made for her amusement in Alnwick Park, where she killed a buck with an arrow. It is not specified whether the long-bow or the cross-bow was used by the princess on this occasion: we are certain that the ladies occasionally shot with both; for when Queen Elizabeth visited Lord Montacute, at Cowdrey, in Sussex, on Monday, August 17th, 1591, "Her highness tooke horse, and rode into the park, at eight o'clock in the morning, where was a delicate bowre prepared, under the which were her highness' musicians placed; and a cross-bow by a nymph, with a sweet song, was delivered into her hands, to shoote at the deere. About some thirty in number were put into a paddock, of which number she killed three or four, and the countess of Kildare one."

Kings and princes have been celebrated for their skill in archery, and among those of our own country may be placed Henry VII., who in his youth was partial to this exercise; and therefore it is said

of him in an old poem, written in praise of the Princess Elizabeth, afterwards queen to Henry VII.—

See where he shoteth at the butts,
And with hym are lordes three;
He weareth a gowne of velvette blacke,
And it is coted above the knee.

He also amused himself with the bow after he had obtained the crown, as we find from an account of his expenditures, where the following memorandums occur: "Lost to my Lord Morgan at buttes, six shillings and eightpence;" and again, "Paid to Sir Edward Burroughes thirteen shillings and fourpence, which the kynge lost at buttes with his cross-bowe." Both the sons of King Henry followed his example, and were excellent archers.

With these remarks on the history of archery, I will conclude with proposing to you "Success to the ——— Archery Club."

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ——— PIGEON CLUB.

Toast.—"PROSPERITY TO THE ——— PIGEON CLUB."

GENTLEMEN,—The financial affairs of the Club having been ordered to pass, the next duty I have to perform is to give a toast which I am sure will be acceptable to you all present. It is, "Prosperity to the ——— Pigeon Club." Prior to your responding to it, I will make a few remarks on Pigeons.

For the last two or three thousand years at least pigeons have been kept by man as domestic creatures, with the object of making them fulfil a rather varied round of characters. Their office has been to afford a ready supply of wholesome food convenient to have at hand in hot countries, where animal food must be eaten almost as soon as it is killed; to furnish manure, indispensable in the East for the cultivation of the fruits and vegetables most in request there—the gourd, the melon, and the cucumber; to render efficient and ready services as messengers under circumstances of extreme difficulty; and to be pampered at home as domestic pets, whose value lies in their docility, their beauty, or even in their strange and anomalous peculiarities.

The well-known passage in Isaiah (lx. 8), "Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?" establishes the domestication of the Blue Rock Pigeon at the early epoch when the prophet wrote. The "windows" are clearly the apertures in a dovecot; and every reader will remember that windows in the East are seldom glazed entrances for light merely, as with us, but are openings to admit air principally, and the sun's rays as little as possible; and when closed, are done so by lattice-work or shutters, as in pigeon-lofts here: so that the expression "windows" is very appropriate to denote the means of approach to the creatures' dwelling-place.

The Romans kept domestic pigeons very much in the same way that we do now; and, in addition to this, were in the habit of catch-

ing the wild species, such as the Ring-Dove and the Common Turtle, and putting them in confinement, as we do quails and ortolans. Fancy pigeons, too, as distinguished from the dovehouse kinds, which were reared solely to be killed and eaten, seem to have been known from a very early period. It may be believed that we hear less of the different sorts then cultivated and most in favour, in consequence of the merits of all the others being thrown into the shade by the superior usefulness of those employed as letter-carriers. Before Pompey's civil war, L. Axius, a Roman knight, used to sell a single pair of pigeons for four hundred denarii, or £12 18s. 4d., as nearly as we can estimate that sum by the modern standard.

But it is as letter-carriers that pigeons have obtained the greatest celebrity among the ancients; and of their services in this capacity we find very frequent and interesting mention. The practice seems to have been adopted in remote times, in modes and upon occasions the exact counterpart of those which call forth the powers of the birds at the present day. How likely is it that the patriarchs, remembering the tradition of the ark, in their search for fresh pasture at a distance from the main body of their tribe, may have taken with them a few pigeons to be flown from time to time, and to carry home news of the proceedings of the exploring party! During the last few years, the invention of the electric telegraph has done more to bring Carrier Pigeons into partial disuse than had been effected in all the three thousand years previous.

ANGLING.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ——— ANGLERS' CLUB.

Toast.—"PROSPERITY OF THE ——— ANGLERS' CLUB."

GENTLEMEN,—Angling came into general repute in England about the period of the Reformation, when both secular and regular clergy, being prohibited by common law from the amusement of hunting, hawking, and fowling, directed their attention to this recreation.

The invention of printing assisted in exciting attention to this subject, and made known its importance "to cause the health of your body, and specially of your soul," as the first treatise quaintly concludes. Wynkin de Worde gave the world, in 1496, a small folio republication of the celebrated book of St. Alban's. It contained for the first time a curious tract, entitled the "Treatyse of Fyissing with an Angler;" embellished with a woodcut of the angler.

Izaak Walton's inimitable "Discourse on Angling" was first printed in 1653, in an elegant duodecimo, with plates of the most considerable fish cut in steel. This edition, and the three subsequent ones, consisted wholly of what is now called Part I. of the "Complete Angler," or Walton's individual portion of that work. While engaged, in 1676—being the eighty-third year of his age—in preparing the fifth edition, he received from his friend Charles Cotton, Esq., a gentleman in Derbyshire, "Instructions how to Angle

for a Trout or Grayling in a Clear Stream," as they were first called, which afterwards became Part II. of this joint publication.

Angling has been thought of sufficient importance to be protected by statute. This first occurred in the reign of Edward I., when imprisonment and treble damages were awarded against all that should trespass on the rights of authorized fishers. And in almost all other reigns various laws were passed for the protection of fishers or streams. It is held that when the lord of the manor has the soil on both sides of the river, as in the case of the Severn, the right of fishing goes with it, and he who intrudes thereon must prove his claim of a free fishery; but when the tide ebbs and flows, and the river is an arm of the sea, as in the case of the Thames, the right is presumed to be common, and he who claims a privilege must prove it.

Angling has long been held in high rank among the sports of the people of England; poets have ever written in its praise, and philosophers have delighted in its practice. It is not confined to particular places, ages, or grades of society; wherever the brook wanders "through the hazy shore or broomy glen"—wherever the willow-branch laves in the streamlet—wherever the trout leaps at the may-fly, or the pikes in the bulrushes, or the salmon springs up the waterfall—there are also anglers. But anglers are somewhat like poets—men are to be born so. And I believe with old Izaak, who has said, "God never did make a more calm, quiet, innocent recreation than angling."

May every sport prove as innocent as that of the field.

May our hounds, horses, and hearts never fail us.

The joys of angling.

May we always enjoy the pleasures of shooting, and succeed with the fowl and the fair.

The staunch pack that a sheet will cover.

May those who love the crack of the whip never want a brush to pursue.

May the bows of all British bowmen be strong, their strings sound, and may their arrows fly straight to the mark.

May the horns of the buck never disgrace the sportsman's brow.

May strength the sportsman's nerves in vigour brace;

May cruelty ne'er stain with foul disgrace

The well-earn'd pleasures of the chase.

May the pleasures of sportsmen never know an end.

WEDDINGS.

Toast.—"HEALTH AND PROSPERITY TO THE NEWLY MARRIED
COUPLE, MR. AND MRS. ———."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS,—I rise on this happy occasion—this festive, domestic, and matrimonial occasion, I may say—to propose to you a toast, and one in which I feel sure you will all join heart and hand with me in drinking and doing honour to. It's a happy toast, and this is a happy occasion. And I may say, ladies and gentlemen, and with truth, that I feel this is one of the happiest days of my life. I've been doing a little bit of charity, and you all know that it is written that "charity shall cover a multitude of sins." Ladies and gentlemen, I have been giving away something—a gem—a gem of the first water. I have this day given a young man a good virtuous handsome lovable English maiden for a wife. A greater prize in life's lottery one man cannot present to another. And may they, the newly married couple, be happy, is the fervent wish of the elderly gentleman now addressing you. I love a wedding, and during the now somewhat lengthened progress of this pilgrim—and I've had my fair share of bunions, I can tell you—ah! you may laugh—of course you may—everybody may and ought to laugh on a wedding day; but, as I just observed, I love a wedding, and I have been to many, and hope to go to many more. I see lots of nice young couples here around me. Now make up your minds to get married. "Pop the question,"—out with it! and if any of you are in want of a father, I'm your man! Young ladies, look at me—scan me well—then I will ask, in the words of the immortal Samuel Pickwick, "How should you like to have another father?" I am in the market, and very much at the service of any young lady or gentleman bound for the Church. Now while the young couples are making up their minds to name "the day—the happy, happy day," and considering where they shall buy the ring, I will give you the toast that I rose for the purpose of proposing, for 'tis—

The toast—the toast—the toast 's the thing
To make your hands tingle, and the glasses ring.

Now, my kind friends, you will all join with me in drinking "Health, Long Life, and Happiness to Mr. and Mrs. ———, the newly married Couple;" and may their path through life be strewn with roses—and posies! May they have joys—and boys—to their

hearts' content. "The Health of Mr. and Mrs. ———," and may they have

Quiet days and long life.

Toast and Speech.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—You are sufficiently aware of the circumstance that has brought us together to-day; an event has taken place in the family of my old, respected, and much esteemed friends, Mr. and Mrs. ———. Their son, Mr. Charles ———, has taken unto himself a wife, in the person of Miss ———, with whom most of you here are well acquainted. Ladies and gentlemen, I feel proud of being here on this occasion, inasmuch as it gives me an opportunity of speaking of the merits and many virtues I happen to know, from a long acquaintanceship with his family, that Mr. Charles ——— possesses. He is, I feel proud to inform you who are not already acquainted with the fact, a very exemplary young man, well worthy of the esteem and confidence in which he is held; and I hope and trust that that happiness he so well deserves will follow this—his wedding day! May he and his be happy—enjoy long each other's society, love, and esteem! May every blessing that this life affords be showered upon them! May their onward career be blessed with joy and happiness! The parents of the young and happy bride lose much, I know, in being deprived of the society and solace of so inestimable a daughter as Miss—I beg the lady's pardon—Mrs. ———. But they will, I feel assured, be well recompensed, knowing that their child—their only daughter—has made such a happy choice. She has said that

A cottage with the man she loved
Was what her gentle heart approved,—

and who can blame her? No one, I'm sure. And now, ladies and gentlemen, I will conclude by proposing to you, "Long Life and Happiness to Mr. and Mrs. ———."

Love is the salt of life; a higher taste
It gives to pleasure, and makes it last.

Toast and Speech by a Friend of the Bride's Family.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It is customary on all occasions like the present to propose the health and happiness of the newly-married couple. And I feel that I cannot refrain from using the old and hackneyed phrase of "I wish that the task had fallen into abler hands than those of the very humble individual now addressing you." But, ladies and gentlemen, I feel that, whatever I may want in words, you will at all events give me credit for sincerity, for I can assure you all that I very much respect the family of Mr. and Mrs. ———, who are amongst the oldest of my acquaintances in this neighbourhood. I have long enjoyed their friendship and esteem, and have seen and watched their lovely daughter pass through the various

stages of life—from infancy, schoolgirlism, and to the time of her blooming and blushing womanhood. She has been the belle of our village; but our young friend—and “none but the brave deserve the fair”—has this day carried her off from us. He came! he saw! he conquered! And you will all agree that he has a prize worth the winning; for,

Old as I am, for ladies' love unfit,
The power of beauty I remember yet.

Ladies and gentlemen, we shall, for some time at least, lose the happy smiling face of the merry and cheerful belle of our village. Mr. ——— is the happy man who is to take her from us. May she be as happy as she deserves! May she find a true and devoted partner in the person of our friend Mr. ———, and may he find in her all that can be desired in this our life—an amiable and loving wife! and I feel convinced that it will be an alliance of joy and happiness. May they live long to enjoy each other's society! I wish the young couple joy, and I hope that this marriage will be the means of cementing the families of the parents on each side in a long and lasting friendship, which will only be determined when they, in the common course of nature, shall have “shuffled off this mortal coil.” My friends, I now ask you to join with me in drinking “Long Life, Joy, and Happiness to the newly-married Couple—the hero and heroine of the day, Mr. and Mrs. ———.”

Speech for the Bridegroom, in returning thanks to his Friends and Neighbours, to conclude with a Toast, proposing “THE HEALTH OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY.”

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—In venturing to return thanks for the very kind and handsome manner in which you have all been pleased to drink and respond to the toast of “Health, Long Life, and Happiness to the newly-married Couple,” and which has been proposed to you by my very excellent and esteemed friend Mr. ———, you will, I am sure, bear with me, and pardon any shortcomings arising from the new and peculiar position I find myself placed in at the present moment. I feel overwhelmed by your kindness; I am at a loss to find words to express myself—or my feelings. Your kindness on this occasion I shall never forget—it will be engraven on my heart for the remainder of my days. I thank you—I thank you sincerely—for your good and kind wishes for my health and happiness and that of my wife.

What is there in the vale of life
Half so delightful as a wife,
When friendship, love, and peace combine
To stamp the marriage-bond divine?

Ladies and gentlemen, you will, I feel, pardon me for my lack of oratorical power on this day. Many that I see around me have passed the ordeal—they have had to return thanks on their wedding-day—and can, knowing the embarrassment felt at such a time, excuse

me. What I lack in words, you will all, I feel assured, pardon and excuse—you will take the will for the deed. I will conclude by thanking—thanking you all most heartily—most kindly, for the cordial manner in which you, Mr. ———, have proposed our healths, and you, my kind friends, have responded to the call of my very old and esteemed friend, Mr. ———.

Though fools spurn Hymen's gentle pow'rs,
We who improve his gentle hours
By sweet experience know,
That marriage, rightly understood,
Gives to the tender and the good
A Paradise below.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will now conclude by proposing a toast for your kind consideration—one I am sure you will do justice to. In marshalling large armies, it is well known how important it is to have a good general; and in the conducting of a mercantile business, you all know how necessary it is to have a good head to the firm, to order and direct; and we all know how necessary it is in carrying out a convivial and social gathering of friends and neighbours like the present, to have a good and efficient chairman. That we have this day found one possessing all the qualities suitable for the event, in the person of my old and esteemed friend, Mr. ———, the Chairman and the matrimonial father of the day, I think you will all agree with me; therefore, friends and neighbours, I now ask of you that you will join with me in drinking "Health and Happiness to our worthy Chairman of the day, Mr. ———,"—good health, with long life and happiness.

Response of the Chairman of the day.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—In rising to acknowledge the compliment you have paid me in drinking my health, I can assure you that I feel highly honoured by the manner in which it has been proposed to you by my friend, Mr. ———; also for the way in which it has been received and responded to by you all. I can assure you that I feel very proud that my conduct on this day has so far merited your esteem. I do, as I before observed, really feel that this is one of the happiest days of my life. To win the love and respect of such a numerous and gay party as is here assembled is no mean honour. The happy pair will in a few hours depart from us—they go on their wedding tour to spend the honeymoon. May they be happy! as I am sure they will; for

They whom truth and wisdom lead
Can gather honey from a weed.

I have to thank you all sincerely for your kindness in proposing my health. I shall at all times feel proud and happy to be with and amongst you all; and I have no doubt that we shall be all called together again to celebrate an interesting event that, in the common course of nature, so shortly follows a wedding;—to welcome the little stranger will, I hope, be our next merry meeting.

Toast.—"THE BRIDESMAIDS."—*By a Friend of the Family.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Before this happy meeting breaks up, I have been desired to propose a toast. You have all done honour, and justly so, to the "Newly-married Couple," by proposing and drinking their health and prosperity. But there is another portion of "wedding characters" which must not be overlooked—I mean the bridesmaids. They form a very interesting and necessary part of a wedding, and I am sure you will all agree with me that we have this day had a set of perfect beauties.

'Tis not a lip, or eye, we beauty call,
But the joint force and full result of all.

I think I never saw such an array of beauty and loveliness in one day before.

Loveliness needs not the foreign aid of ornament,
But is, when unadorn'd, adorn'd the most.

To attend as a bridesmaid is held to be a stepping-stone to marriage. I hope that many of the young ladies here present to-day will prove such to be the case. The wedding breakfast-room may be said to be a good field for husbands—a matrimonial field. I may say, therefore, young ladies, look around you; and I will say, in the words of a master of the ceremonies of a ball room, "Take your partners and places—join hands!" For, as a walled town is more worthy than a village, so is the forehead of a married man more honourable than the bare brow of a bachelor. To the bridesmaids of to-day I would say, and on behalf of this company, I thank you for your presence; and I will conclude by proposing "The Bridesmaids," and may they all become brides on or before this day twelve months!

A Speech in acknowledging the Toast of "THE BRIDESMAIDS."—*By the Spinster Aunt.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN, AND LADIES,—I am desired to rise and acknowledge the toast of "The Bridesmaids." I am sure we have to thank Mr. ——— for the kind way in which he has spoken of us, and the company for the handsome manner in which they have responded to the toast. Mr. ——— has spoken of a wedding breakfast-room being a fine "matrimonial field." I wish he would prove his words; for I am sure I have seen him at several weddings during my seventeen summers, more or less (of course I claim a lady's privilege in respect to my age,—

Oh, sir, I must not tell my age;
They say women and music should never be dated).

And if the wedding breakfast-room is that fine "matrimonial field," I am somewhat surprised to find that Mr. ——— has not yet "brought down his bird." I am afraid he is not a good shot. It's all very well for him to say, "Look around you—take your partners

and your places—join hands." But why has he not taken his partner and his proper place in society—why has he not "joined hands" with one of the "perfect beauties" he talks so much about? I am afraid that he is ———, or he would before this have proved to one of the many bridesmaids that he has met with of late, that to act as a bridesmaid was a stepping-stone to marriage. I am sure I have met him at ——— weddings during the last ——— months, and he has never proposed to me or "any other lady." I am afraid he is a little gay deceiver—one of the men that "won't propose." I am sure that if Mr. ——— has any objection to propose to me, he can have no excuse with regard to my nieces; for a

Lady with her daughters or her nieces,
Shine like a guinea and seven-shilling pieces.

Now I give Mr. ——— notice, that if he does not propose to some fair lady before the next moon—or wedding-day—that I will never believe him again—never! never!! never!!! But, on behalf of the bridesmaids, of which I have the honour of being one, I have to return you our thanks for the kind manner in which you have proposed our healths, and for your good and kind wishes. But

Ah me! when shall I marry me?
Lovers are plenty, but fail to relieve me.

A Speech in acknowledging the Toast of "THE BRIDESMAIDS."

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN, AND LADIES,—I am informed that it is usual and necessary that some one of the bridesmaids should acknowledge and return thanks for the toast which you have proposed and drunk with so much kindness and enthusiasm. I am sure that I am at a loss to find words to express myself on this occasion. You have spoken of us in such a manner that I feel I lack words to convey the wishes of my sister bridesmaids to you. Mr. ——— has spoken of us in such flattering terms, and I can't think we deserve them all. I am sure we are all pleased to attend the wedding of a friend and schoolfellow, Miss ——— with Mr. ———, and I can only say that which you have all said before—may they be happy! Oh, dear! this is the first wedding I have attended. I cannot say any more. I wish you all to be happy Miss ———, now Mrs. ———, I hope she will be happy. I hope we shall all be happy. A wedding-day is a happy day. I thank you, gentlemen and ladies, for your kindness in proposing "The Bridesmaids." Please to excuse me if I have not acquitted myself so well as was expected from me. But I am sure I wish you all happiness, and with regard to the newly-married couple I would say, "I think you the happiest couple in the world; for you're not only happy in one another, but happy in yourselves, and by yourselves."

But happy they, the happiest of their kind,
Whom gentle stars unite, and in one fate
Their hearts, their fortunes, and their beings blend!

Toast.—By the Chairman.—“THE GROOMSMEN.”

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—There is another section of the *dramatis personæ* of the play of “How to Get Married” that must not be overlooked on this occasion—I allude to the groomsmen. They have their part to play; they form a portion of the characters necessary to develop the play of “Man and Wife” and “The Wedding-day.” And it very often happens that we are much indebted to those gentlemen who act as groomsmen for the charmingly pretty bridesmaids that we always see at an English wedding. They pick for beauty in the whole of the surrounding neighbourhood. In fact they—if I may be allowed the expression—scour the country for “pretty girls.” Ah! and they get ‘em too. Then they write little three-cornered notes, on such nice scented paper, to all their pretty cousins and fair friends, to play the part of bridesmaid “for this occasion only,” as the theatrical managers have it. The pretty cousins and fair friends are informed, in those three-cornered notes aforesaid, that “there will be such lots of nice young men there.” Then can you wonder that we always see so much beauty at a wedding? This occasion proves no exception to that rule, for I am sure we have an abundance of beauty assembled here to-day, and all owing to those artful young gentlemen and three-cornered notes. Well, what matter the means, so long as the end is obtained? Now I think that we have all to be very thankful to the groomsmen, and cannot therefore refuse to drink their health

In a bumper—in a bumper of bold sparkling wine.

I trust that, with at least some of the groomsmen of the day, it will be their last appearance in that character; that when next they appear before the public it will be in the principal part—the bridegroom. I am sure they may as well pop the question to-day. Gentlemen, look at the beauty around you—look at the young ladies, who, like yourselves, have had to play but a second-rate part of a bridesmaid, when they are all ready and willing to take the leading character; they are well studied in the part, and are ready to appear at a moment’s notice. Then, gentlemen, why defer till to-morrow that which can be done to-day? Now, gentlemen, pop the question, and I’ll eat my—my—my—supper to-night if there is one lady present who will say No! No! they will say Yes,—won’t you my little dears? Now, while you are making up your minds, I will propose the toast of “The Groomsmen”—and with musical honours too,—

For they are jolly good fellows,
 For they are jolly good fellows,
 For they are jolly good fellows,
 And so say all of us,
 And so say all of us,
 And so say all of us,
For they are jolly good fellows.

May love and reason be friends, and beauty and prudence marry.
 May those who take “the way to get married” find “a cure for the heart-ache.”

Speech of one of the Groomsmen, or Best man, in returning thanks.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I rise for the purpose of acknowledging the toast of the groomsmen, and am very happy to find that we are held to be of sufficient consequence at a wedding-party as to have our health proposed. Your excellent Chairman has spoken of us in such glowing terms, that I, unaccustomed as I am to speaking, feel that it behoves me to say a few words on the occasion. I feel proud and happy to be one of the guests at this, I trust, happy wedding. I am sure the manner in which everything has been conducted—thanks to your Chairman—is enough to inspire every one present to seriously think of matrimony; when we see such a happy gathering of smiling faces, it makes one feel inclined to “pop the question”—become a Benedict; and I have no doubt that it will have that effect. All I can say at present is, that I hope, “when my time comes,” that I may be blessed with such an efficient and excellent Chairman, or “father,” as we have had to-day—together with such an assemblage of youth and beauty. I will conclude by thanking you all for the kind manner in which you have mentioned the Groomsmen.

A Speech in reply, by one of the Groomsmen.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—I feel that a response should be made to the toast of “The Groomsmen,” which has been submitted to you in such a humorous manner by our worthy and esteemed Chairman—or friend, Mr. ———, and acknowledged by you all. I am sure I had no idea that a groomsmen was half such a responsible and, at the same time, dangerous a person as he has been depicted. As one of the groomsmen, I must certainly plead guilty to sending a few notes—although not “three-cornered ones;” mine were all oblongs, and covered with Cupid’s hearts and darts, and all that sort of thing; and I thought they looked very pretty. The young lady who superintends the “wedding stationery” department of the establishment where I made my purchases, assured me that they were all the fashion. “For,” said she, “three-cornered are out—oblongs are in.” “Then,” said I, “I will be in the fashion; so let me have the oblongs by all means.” And now I further plead guilty to having sent out and used the whole of my packet; and I know that my pretty cousins did invite by means of my “oblongs” several pretty young—I was going to say pretty young ladies. But, Mr. Chairman, I am bound to say that it was just the reverse of that, sir; for I happened to catch sight—of course by the merest chance in the world—of the superscription, and I perceived they were nearly all addressed to “young gents,” many of whom will be about twenty-one “next grass.” Now, friends, the Chairman has admitted that we have an assemblage of beauty that will defy competition; and I take to myself and my “oblongs” some share of the credit of their being present; and as it has pleased you, it must, as a matter of course, please me. For your kindness in proposing our good healths, and on behalf of the other groomsmen and myself, I return our most sincere thanks.

Anniversary of a Wedding-day.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I need not tell you the object of our meeting here to-day, as you all know this is the anniversary of the wedding-day of our friend Mr. ———; and as he has honoured us by invitations to partake of his hospitality on this festive occasion, we must also be partakers of his joy. Known so long and so intimately as both Mr. ——— and Mrs. ——— have been by the majority of us in general, and by myself in particular, I have dared to assume the task of speaker—not that I fancy I can speak, or that there are none here could do it better, but simply as a right I claim from the many years of uninterrupted friendship that has existed between us. Time, my friends, has trod but lightly on the honoured brows of Mr. and Mrs. ———, and, looking at the charming olive-branches that surround them, we read at once that their union has indeed been a happy one—a union exciting the envy of all crude old bachelors and frumpish old maids. Ladies, you will excuse me, I know, for this observation, for I don't believe there is an old maid in existence who did not become so through the bad taste and selfishness of the gentlemen; so, then, as the fault lies with the gentlemen, the blame must lie there also. I caution you ladies (that is the unmarried) to see into this matter for your own sakes, as well as out of charity to those chicken-hearted gentlemen who cannot screw their courage to the sticking point and “pop the question.” Goodness me! why, more than half the pleasures of life are drawn from domestic bliss; and who is it likes the cheerful innocent prattle of children like the parents? Oh! let us set an example, and if needs be, let us at once establish a society. I can see many present that will take shares and form a directory—'twill be a good investment; we'll call it the “Non-Bachelor-and-Anti-Old-Maidistic Society (Unlimited).” Now, enter your names at once, and drop your capital. Or, stay! first let us drink a bumper in honour of Mr. and Mrs. ——— and all their little ones, wishing them many more years of uninterrupted bliss and prosperity, and then we'll ask them to become Directors of the Non-Bachelor-and-Anti-Old-Maidistic Society (Unlimited).

Response by the Person whose Health has been proposed.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I feel that it will be expected that I should say a few words on this the —th anniversary of our wedding-day, and I can only say that I am pleased to see so many of my friends around me whom I highly esteem, and whose friendship I value, and for whose good wishes, which they have expressed by drinking the health of myself and of my beloved partner in life, I beg to tender my sincerest thanks. Married life is said by some to be productive of cares and troubles which are not incident to a state of what is called “single blessedness;” but, for my own part, I can say that whatever cares—and they have happily been but few—which have attended my own married life, they have been so softened and modified by the soothing influence of connubial sympathy, as to have become unworthy of thought or notice. On the part, therefore, of Mrs. ——— and myself, I again thank you heartily.

CHRISTENING.

Speech by the Chairman.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—On rising to say a few words, I may say, in the words of the clown, "Here we are again," for when last I had the pleasure of meeting most of the happy faces I now see around me, I hinted that the time was not far distant when we should be assembled again. And I was about to tell you in how many months that I thought we should be called together; but my wife, who was at my elbow, whispered that I was not to go into dates, as it would make the young people blush, she said. But, ladies and gentlemen, we now know the time—it's *thrice*, and *thrice*, and *thrice*. That makes nine, and two more make up eleven, and "Here we are again." Ladies and gentlemen, the journey from the wedding to the christening is short and pleasant—it is pleasant in that it brings us here to celebrate the event—it is pleasant in that we see our worthy hostess, Mrs. ——— about amongst us again, and we all understand the pleasure it is to our respected friend, Mr. ——— to be called a father, and father to such a charming delightful baby, such a perfect duck of a baby—one who never cries. Ladies and gentlemen, take my word for it (and I've had some experience in these matters) Mrs. ———'s baby is, without exception, the handsomest, the sweetest baby I ever saw in my life, and so like its papa, especially about the nose. Young ladies, look at it—take it as a pattern, for it is a model baby, one that would be sure to get the first prize in any baby-show in the county. I will now conclude these remarks in proposing to you the health and happiness of Mr. and Mrs. ———, with one cheer more for the "little one," and may he make a better man than his father; may he prove and deserve to be his mother's pet and his father's joy! May Mr. and Mrs. ——— be, in a few years, able to say with the poet,—

When I look on my boys,
They renew all my joys,
Myself in my children I see;
While the comforts I find
In the kingdom, my mind,
Pronounce that my kingdom is free.

Speech by the Parent in returning Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,—Mr. ——— our excellent friend, has been pleased to propose, and you have done us the honour of drinking, the health of myself and wife with "one cheer more for the little one." Upon my word and honour I know

not how to thank you for your kindness. Mr. ———, your chairman, has said that the journey from the wedding to the christening is but short. And so it has proved, for it is within twelve months since the time when I had the pleasure and happiness of meeting most of you at our wedding-day. And here I find you all again assembled to welcome the "little stranger." I thank you all for your good and kind wishes towards us and "ours"—our Number One, and trust that he will prove to grow up to A 1. I sincerely thank you; and I am sure I may speak for Mrs. ——— and thank you all on her behalf for your good wishes.

The fairest flower in the garden of creation is a young mind offering and unfolding itself to the influence of Divine Wisdom; as the heliotrope turns its sweet blossoms to the sun.

I have often thought what a melancholy world this would be without children; and what an inhuman world without the aged.

There is no sentiment more natural to thoughtful minds than that of reverence for childhood. Many sources, both of mystery and love, meet in the infant life. A being so fresh from non-existence seems to promise us some tidings of the origin of souls; a being so visibly pressing forward into the future makes us think of their tendency. While we look on the "child as the father of the man," yet cannot tell of what kind of man, all the possible varieties of character and fate appear for the moment to be collected into that diminutive consciousness; that which may be the germ of any is felt as though it were the germ of all; the thread of life, which from our hand that holds it runs forward into distant darkness, entwines itself there into a thousand filaments, and leads us over every track and scene of human things.

BIRTHDAY.

In proposing "MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY"—by a friend.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—It is well known to all present that we have met for the purpose of celebrating the anniversary of the birthday of our friend Mr. ———, and I have been called upon to say a few words on the occasion. Shall I say I could but wish it had fallen to the lot of some one more able than myself? No! I will not, because that's an old tale, and one that nobody ever believes; so being requested to say a few words, I will at once proceed, for I like a birthday, and I am always—

Pleased to look forward, pleased to look behind,
And count each birthday with a grateful mind.

And it is a source of great pleasure for me to be present on the anniversary of our friend's natal day. It is not the first time, and I trust it will not be the last time, that I shall have the honour of being at the celebration of the event. And I see many happy smiling faces around me that have been in the habit of meeting here before. Our worthy friend is so well known to you all, that little is left for me to say on his behalf; I wish, in all sincerity, that he may have many, very many, happy returns of the day, and I know that you all participate in that wish. I know that you all have the greatest possible respect for his welfare; and when I see, year after year, the old familiar faces assembled for the purpose of congratulating him, I feel convinced that you still continue to hold him as your friend. It is, perhaps, one of the pleasantest things in this life to meet one another's friends and acquaintances so often at the same board, as it shows that there is a great respect and friendship on each side; I am sure that we have had a pleasant evening, and one that will bear the morning's reflection. May our friend Mr. ——— continue in the enjoyment of good health, together with his wife and family, for many years to come; and, in conclusion, you will please to join me, bumper in hand, in wishing him "many happy returns of the day," and—

Happy are we met,
Happy have we been,
Happy may we part,
And happy meet again.

Response by the person whose health and "Many Happy Returns of the Day" have been proposed.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—I feel myself, by your kindness, placed in a peculiar and perplexing predicament. You have drunk to my health, and "many happy returns of the day"—that is, my birthday, but—

'Tis, alas! too clear,

'Tis but the funeral of another year.

But as each succeeding year rolls round, I seem happier in the enjoyment of my friends and acquaintance. Believe me, I am pleased to see you all again, although, since we were last assembled, another year has been added to my account in Life's ledger. For your kindness in proposing my health, and for your good wishes, I sincerely thank you all; and am happy to see around me so many of my old friends, some of whom I have known from earliest childhood, and am therefore proud that I have continued to have their respect and friendship for so lengthened a period. I can assure you all, that I feel that I have not words adequate to express my feelings on this occasion; but I know you will excuse me, and take the will for the deed. I thank you all; I can say no more—my words fail me.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—For the honour you have done me in proposing and drinking my health, I return you my best thanks. I am quite unprepared to make a speech for the occasion, not being accustomed to it; but, nevertheless, I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without rising to thank you all for your kindness; and, believe me, I feel that this is the happiest moment of my life—to be surrounded by my friends, both old and new. It is gratifying, at all times, to meet at the social board with the friends we esteem and love, and in whom we feel a confidence that their expressions of kindly feeling and friendship are sincere; but on such an occasion as this, which, as one of the "milestones of life," marks our progress through this world, it is doubly pleasing to meet with those by whose sympathy and friendship we are enabled to pass pleasantly through what might otherwise be a dull and dreary road. And now, in conclusion, I wish you all health and happiness, and once more thank you for your kindness, which I fear I cannot sufficiently do; for—

Beggar that I am! I am even poor in thanks!

But I thank you.

My birthday!—what a different sound

That word had in my youthful ears!

And now, each time the day comes round,

Less and less white its mark appears.

Yes, Ladies and Gentlemen, thus it is, and ever will be, that when we are young we want to be old, and when we are old we want to be young. A boy says, When I'm a man!—a man, When I was a boy! In our youth we should like to have two birthdays in one year, in our middle age but one in two years. But our youth and manhood we owe to our country—our declining years are due to ourselves.

CONVIVIAL.

Toast.—"THE FOUNDERS OF THE FEAST."—*By a Friend of the Family.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Before we break up this pleasant party, I have a desire to say a few words. We have all been entertained in the most liberal manner by our respected friends, Mr. and Mrs. ———, "The Founders of the Feast." I therefore think we should be wanting in our duty, did we not acknowledge to them our thankfulness for the kindness displayed on their part to us this evening. I am sure it will meet with the approbation of the company, when I inform you that I rise to propose their good health. The many virtues and good qualities possessed by our friends, Mr. and Mrs. ———, I feel convinced are well known to you all; I am, therefore, saved the trouble of debating upon them. Mr. and Mrs. ——— have only to be known to be respected and appreciated. The splendid entertainment provided for us this evening is but one of the many good and kind things they are in the habit of doing; and it may be fairly said of Mr. ———, who is as good a specimen of the "Fine Old Englishman" as you will find in a day's march, that while he feasted with the great, he ne'er forgot the small. His poorer and less fortunate neighbours can testify to his goodness of heart; and many families have had their domestic circle gladdened by his kindness and unostentatious charity. It may be truly said that he is one of those who "do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame." I have had the honour of being long acquainted with our "mutual friend." We have enjoyed each other's society for many years past, and through the whole course of my life I never met with a more "happy family" than his; and I may mention that Mrs. and the Misses ——— are much respected by the whole district. These pleasant gatherings, like the one of this evening, are always spoken of with pleasure; and, whether as the "Founders of the Feast," or visitors to similar entertainments, they are always looked upon with pleasure and delight. That Mr. and Mrs. ——— may long live to enjoy the respect and good wishes of their friends—that the remaining portion of their journey through this life may be pleasant and comfortable, I am sure is the wish of all present. That their sons and daughters may grow up and walk in the footsteps of their parents, we all desire to see. With respect to this evening's entertainment, they all deserve our warmest thanks. It has been "the feast of reason and the flow of soul"—a gathering of convivial spirits—a meeting of friends and neighbours; and I would say, "Here's to our next merry meeting!" and conclude by proposing the health of Mr. and Mrs. ———, "The Founders of the Feast."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—Mr. and Mrs. ———, our worthy and respected host and hostess, are much beloved by all who have the happiness of being acquainted with them. The whole of the surrounding district is full of praise (and well it may be) of the many excellences possessed by them. They have a very large circle of friends, by whom they are held in great esteem. Of Mr. ——— it might fairly be said of him that he is—

So good, so just, so great,
That at his birth the heavenly council paused,
And then at last cried out, "This is a man!"

Therefore—

To the health I'm now proposing,
Let's have one full glass at least;
No one can think 't imposing—
'Tis "The Founders of the Feast."

Response by the Host in acknowledging the Toast of "The Founders of the Feast."

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—In rising to acknowledge your kindness in drinking our healths, which was proposed to you by my worthy and old-esteemed friend, Mr. ———, I feel that I want words to express myself in proper terms. I can say that I am much obliged to you all for the flattering manner in which you have responded to the toast: I can assure you that we have no greater pleasure in this life than that of meeting our friends and neighbours. I am convinced that these little gatherings go a long way in cementing friendship; I know of no better way of rightly understanding each other than such entertainments as we have had to-night. We—that is, my wife and self—are well repaid if we have afforded you any pleasure and conviviality. Mrs. ——— and our daughters seem never happier than when they are making preparations for a little party. We are at all times pleased to see our friends. I can but acknowledge that I am flattered by the manner in which you have drunk our good healths. To my old friend, Mr. ———, I have to be thankful for the kind way in which he put the toast to you, and for the kind things he said of me and mine. We have known each other for many, many years—more than we in the common course of nature can expect to do again. I have found him a good and true friend. I have to be thankful to him for many past favours and counsels, which I have ever found to be wise and good. To you, my friends, I return my sincere thanks for the kind and handsome manner in which you have proposed my health and that of Mrs. ———, and in return, I do not know that I can do better than propose the health of Mr. ———. I have before observed that he is an old friend of mine, and he is so well known and respected by you all that it leaves me but little to say on his behalf, and if I were to speak for an hour I could not inform you of more than you already know of him; therefore, without any further remarks, I will conclude with proposing "Health, long life, and happiness to Mr. ———."

Health of a Meritorious Individual.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—Taking an opportunity afforded now before you recommence the harmony of the evening, I trust you will grant me permission to propose you a toast.

Honour has been done to-night, I must say, with an unsparing hand. The Queen, the Prince, the Army, the Navy, the Church, our Magistrates, our Members, and others, have received their share, but there is one gentleman here to-night who in my estimation has a large demand upon his fellow-men, and is deserving of all honour at our hands, for the manly, straightforward, and upright conduct that has governed all his actions: the gentleman I allude to is Mr. ———.

Gentlemen, I thank you for this applause; it shows me I did not err in my judgment of the character of Mr. ———, nor in your estimation of it. I have had the honour of knowing Mr. ——— for a long series of years, and, having been closely associated with him in many transactions, can fearlessly aver a more honest man does not exist, a better father, or a more sincere friend. For his deeds of charity, let the poor speak, and their tongue is legion. Of all that should become a man, Mr. ——— stands possessed; and when we toast the great, the brave, the wise, and the sacred, the worthy must not be forgotten: so, then, Mr. Chairman, I shall thank you to order bumpers for the toast, “The Good Health of Mr. ———.”

Toast.—“HEALTH OF THE CHAIRMAN.”—*By the Vice-Chairman or a Friend.*

GENTLEMEN,—In due course the lot has fallen on me to propose the next toast. I am delighted at the opportunity afforded me to do honour to the chair; and although there be many whose abilities better qualify them for the task, no man will I yield to for sincerity. Our Chairman, gentlemen, has been known to some of you for many years, and therefore, of his private worth I need not speak further than this, that the more one knows of him, the better one likes him; for the manner in which he has ruled for our comfort to-night, let his acts speak for him: maintaining order, yet with that suavity of manner, obedience is enforced. He, ever ready with smart repartee and joke, his presence makes a continual feast. Such is the gentleman who has presided at our festive board to-day; he it is whom we delight to honour, and of whom, in the language of Shakspeare, it may be said,—

A merrier man,
Within the limits of becoming mirth,
I never spent an hour's talk withal.

Gentlemen,—“The Chairman.”

Toast.—"HEALTH OF THE CHAIRMAN."

GENTLEMEN,—An opportunity is afforded to me during the temporary absence of our worthy Chairman, to propose to you a toast—one well deserving of support at your hands. At all happy meetings and social gatherings, like the present, it is essentially necessary for the well-being and order of the evening's entertainment, that we should have a good chairman to preside over us—to keep us in good order—to keep us in a good temper; and so that the business of the evening, for which we have met, may be carried out in a manner worthy of the object for which we have assembled, and that it may be conducted in such a manner as will give us credit and respect with the outer public. The success of all gatherings akin to the present, is invariably in the hands of the chairman; is due to his business habits and general knowledge of the world and its manners and customs—to his acquaintance with the general working of a society like that which has met here this evening. That Mr. —, our worthy Chairman, has performed the duties appertaining to the office on this occasion, in a manner which deserves our warmest thanks, I think you will all agree to; and I am sure you will, one and all, agree to join with me in drinking his good health. I feel proud and happy to be presided over by a gentleman of his standing and ability, and I am sure his constant study is to render himself both agreeable and useful to his fellow-men. He is ever ready to join the convivial board, to help the success of any other similar undertakings, by giving his time and countenance to the objects that any society or festivity may have in view. I could enlarge very much more on his merits, but time bids me to be brief—

Good, the more
Communicated, the more abundant grows.

Now, as it is agreed on all sides, that we have a good chairman, I say that we cannot do better than drink his jolly good health; so all you that are of the same opinion will at once join with me in the toast of "Good health to the Chairman," and with musical honours,—

For he's a jolly good fellow;
For he's a jolly good fellow;
For he's a jolly good fellow;
Which nobody can deny.

Hip! hip! hip! hurrah! hurrah!

Response of the Chairman.

MR. VICE AND GENTLEMEN,—For the compliment you have just paid me, in drinking my health so enthusiastically, I can but thank you most sincerely. Whatever I may have deserved at your hands, in the quality of chairman, beyond that which would have fallen to the lot of "any other man" in similar circumstances, I am at a loss to know; and why the gentleman who did me the honour of proposing it, should have passed on me so flattering an eulogium, is to

me likewise mysterious; I cannot be vain enough to suppose I deserve one half of the praise he showered on me, and you endorsed. I have merely, in my capacity of Chairman, endeavoured to carry out your requirements, and, in the maintenance of order, have feebly contributed to the harmony of the evening; but, gentlemen, the real strength was with you, for, without your help, my efforts would have been utterly powerless—without your support my hammer would have been barren; but as “unity is strength,” our united efforts have culminated in as glorious an evening as it has ever been my lot to witness. And as you have so liberally rewarded me for my part in it, permit me to thank you, one and all, not only for your support in the harmony of the evening, but for the generous expression of good-will you have evinced towards me. I drink to you all, and thank you.

Toast.—“THE HEALTH OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN.”

GENTLEMEN,—A toast has been placed in my hands for me to submit for your approval. I feel certain of its success, and when I name to you the worthy individual whose health I propose should be drunk, you, I am sure, will all agree with me that he has, by his conduct during this evening, well merited your esteem, confidence, and support. The person whose health I shall propose is well known to you all, and he has only to be known to be respected. I have had the honour of being acquainted with him for many years, and can bear testimony to his general good conduct as a citizen, a father, and a husband; and in each and every phase he is exemplary. He has the happy knack, if I may be allowed to use the expression, of rendering himself agreeable and useful, and I can safely say, that

My friend is the man you should copy through life;
He harbours no mischief, he causes no strife.
Content in his station,
He minds his occupation;

and is, “taking him for all in all,” a very first-class fellow. I have therefore much pleasure in proposing “The Health of Mr. —, our Vice-Chairman.”

Toast.—“THE VICE-CHAIRMAN.”

GENTLEMEN,—I rise to propose the health of a gentleman whose services have been very valuable to us to-day, and to whom, in conjunction with our Chairman, we are indebted for the very admirable arrangements made for our comfort. I mean the Vice-Chairman. Not only has he by his admirable conduct contributed to the harmony of the day, but by his urbanity he has conciliated every antagonistic element, thereby lessening considerably the labours of the chair, to whom he has been a firm and consistent support, and thereby earned our thanks. With your permission, then, I propose “The Health of the Vice-Chairman.”

Toast.—"THE HOST AND HOSTESS."

MR. CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN,—It seems to me that a very important part of to-night's duty stands a very fair chance of being neglected, and I am sure no gentleman here would willingly forget this duty. In order, then, that we may not be found wanting, I have obtained from the chair permission to give a toast.

Gentlemen, I shall have no difficulty in my task; I shall only have to ask you to remember how we have been regaled to-day—to think of the splendid banquet laid before us. Unlike Macbeth's, ours had no ghost, nor is the "order of our going, Go at once."

Looking round I see in every face the index of the wearer's mind, jovial and jolly—jolly and jovial. Now this jollity is due to something, and I shall not be far wrong if I at once attribute it to the good things our careful host has furnished us with to-day, and in the selection of which he may be fairly termed Prince of Caterers. But not to him alone would I award the whole of the great meed of praise so justly earned; there is another person, and that no less a person than our hostess, whom I would associate with him in my toast; for, as the labour has been shared by her, so indeed should the laurels be. To her good taste we owe the decorations of our table, and to their joint efforts the success that has attended our festive meeting. "To the Host and Hostess," then, I call on you to drink, with the wish that both may live many years to enjoy the reward of their industry and perseverance, and that we may meet again for many years to come, to partake of such good cheer.

Toast.—"THE HEALTH OF THE WORTHY HOST AND HOSTESS."

GENTLEMEN,—I rise to propose a toast which I am sure will meet with the cordial support at your hands the subjects of it so deservingly merit. Englishmen are proverbial for their love of a good dinner; and in speaking on that subject the late popular writer, Douglas Jerrold, said, "that if the world were to come to an end, he had no doubt that a few Englishmen would meet together and find some little corner wherein they could have a good dinner to celebrate the event." This, coming as it does from so keen an observer of men and manners, justifies me in using the remark that we all love a good dinner. But, gentlemen, what is the use of the provisions for a good dinner if they are not well cooked, and well served up, and placed before us, with all those necessary adjuncts which tempt the appetite and please the palate; and to please and tempt the appetites of a large party like that assembled on this occasion is no sinecure, for, "doth not the appetite alter? A man loves the meat at his youth that he cannot endure in his age." But for all that I think you will agree with me that the manner in which Mr. and Mrs. — have placed the various viands before us to-day is deserving of our praise and thanks. I have ever found our worthy host ready and willing to oblige, and meet the wishes of his

friends and customers. And I am happy to say that he has, from his general good conduct and urbanity, won for himself the support and esteem of a large portion of the inhabitants of this district. The house and all appertaining to it has very much improved under his management; he has proved himself to be a good caterer for the general public—no mean task—and the public have in return appreciated his efforts, and have rallied around him morning, noon, and night—in fact, he has proved himself to be “the right man in the right place.” Now it is said that it is “not in mortals to command success;” but he has done more, he has deserved it, and been thereby rewarded. Boswell, in writing to Dr. Johnson, in 1776, says, “There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced, as by a good tavern or inn.” It would really appear that “there is no new thing under the sun.” Boswell wrote his remarks nearly a hundred years ago. But if John Smith, of Pentonville and the City, had been writing home from Brighton, or any other watering place—there and back for so much—to his Hannah Maria only as last week, could he have said anything different, or better than Boswell? I say, no! unless the fertile brain of my friend, John Smith—I suppose you have all heard that name before?—a capital fellow, John Smith: well, he might have written thus—“There is nothing which has yet been contrived by man by which so much happiness is produced, as by a good tavern or inn,” particularly when it is kept by a man like Mr. ———, our host. That John Smith might have added. Now there was a “jolly old clergyman” named Shenstone; he was evidently fond of the good things of this life, and had found out where to get them, for he wrote,—

Whoe'er has travell'd life's dull round,
Where'er his stages may have been,
May sigh to think he still has found
The warmest welcome at an inn.

You see the clergyman and poet knew how, when, and where the creature comforts are to be found. George Combe, the author of “Dr. Syntax,” who was fond of his pipe and glass—“as all good fellows should”—wrote—

Along the varying road of life,
In calm content, in toil or strife,
At morn or noon, by night or day,
As time conducts him on the way,
How oft doth man by care oppress'd,
Find at an inn a place of rest.

Again he says—

Where'er his fancy bids him roam,
In ev'ry inn he finds a home;
Will not an inn his cares beguile,
Where on each face he sees a smile?

I will at once conclude, as I fear I have wearied your patience, by proposing to you “Long Life, Health, and Happiness to our respected Host and Hostess, Mr. and Mrs. ———.” Hip, hip, hurrah! and one cheer more for the little ones—for they are jolly good fellows, which nobody can deny.

A Reply of a Host to the last Toast.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I rise to return thanks to a toast which my worthy friend, Mr. ———, informs me has been drunk during my absence, and that, Mr. Chairman, as I am given to understand, was my health, and that of my wife and family. Can-ning, the poet and politician, has said,—

But of all plagues, good Heaven, thy wrath can send,
Save, save, oh! save me from my candid friend!

I say so too, sir, for had my friend, Mr. ———, *saved me on this* occasion, it would have *saved* me the trouble of making a speech—at which I am but a very poor hand—and it would have *saved* you the trouble and annoyance of listening to it; so that we should *all* in some way or the other been *saved*, and a *save-all*, we know, is a very useful thing in a poor man's kitchen. But, gentlemen, I think the best thing I can do now will be to *save* your time, for we all know it "*flies fast*."

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, when I was a boy, we had a saying amongst us, that "when you are in a mess, the best way was to get out of it as soon as possible,"—that is my intention on the present occasion; therefore, gentlemen, for the very kind and considerate manner in which you have drunk and responded to the toast of my health, and that of my wife and family, I return you my sincere thanks, on my own and their behalf. I am proud to think that our conduct has merited your esteem. I am sure I feel proud of meeting such a numerous and respectable party of friends as that which I now see assembled here to-day [or this evening], and thank you all heartily and cordially for your kindness and support. I feel pleased that you are pleased; I am proud to hear it stated that the "good things of this life" which we have placed before you have given satisfaction. I hope to have the honour of meeting you here again on many such merry meetings as the present. And now, once more—for the hearty and very kind manner in which you have proposed and responded to my health, and that of my wife and family—gentlemen, I thank you; and may health and prosperity follow and be with you all to the end of your days—and one day after that.

GENTLEMEN,—I have to thank you for the manner in which you have responded to the toast having reference to myself and family. I need not tell you that, although accustomed to public life, I am not accustomed to "public speaking." I am more accustomed to doing—doing what I can for the gratification of my friends and patrons, and therefore "*deeds, not words*," are my vocation; and I trust they will have given you satisfaction, as also the efforts of my wife, without whose valuable assistance I should fail in my utmost endeavours. For my helpmate and myself, I again return you my heartfelt thanks, and assure you that nothing will give us greater pleasure than to contribute to your satisfaction on a future occasion.

May no publican, or public man, ever deal in *half measures*.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Speech on Election to the Chair in an Odd Fellows Lodge.

MOST NOBLE GRAND, VICE-GRAND, OFFICERS, AND BROTHERS,—You have to-night conferred on me the distinguished honour of placing me at the head of your Lodge, to preside over you for the ensuing term. I deem this so high an honour that when I first became an Odd Fellow I could not have hoped ever to achieve it. I could not believe that it would ever be my lot to sit under this canopy and wear this Regalia. I know that your confidence has been gained by my constant attendance at Lodge, and the zeal I have endeavoured to use in fulfilling the minor offices which from time to time you have entrusted me with. Brethren, I have but few words in return to say, and those are, that I shall be constant to my duties, and all the intelligence I can bring to bear shall be used for the best interests of the Order in general, and this Lodge in particular. All that I have promised to do I will perform, and to all intents and purposes prove myself an Odd Fellow—not content alone to see the mottoes of the order emblazoned on the banners, but one who makes them his rule of action, that shall gain the faith of his supporters, the hope of the Lodge, and charity to all.

Toast.—“THE HEALTH OF THE SECRETARY.”

GENTLEMEN,—In proposing to you “The Health of the Secretary,” I must be allowed to dwell a little upon the services he has rendered, a very slight mention of which will warrant you in according me your upraised hands and voices to the health of the Secretary.

In a financial point of view, he is the officer of all others that you could least do without; upon his accuracy and trustworthiness depends entirely the existence of our Lodge; and his unwearied care and attention is requisite to keep the machine in healthy motion. When, therefore, we find a Brother combining all these elements, and exercising them zealously for the good of our Lodge, he of all others should not escape honourable mention at the festive board. These, then, are the reasons for drinking the health of Brother ———, the Secretary. I do not think you will need more, but if you did they might be doubled, and then we should fall short in our estimation of the good qualities of our Brother ——— the Lodge Secretary.

Toast.—"THE STEWARDS."

GENTLEMEN,—In following the programme placed before me, I have to call on you to drink "The Health of the Stewards." Had it not been for the services so ably and so freely rendered by these gentlemen, in all probability this meeting, which has afforded us so much pleasure, would never have taken place; judge, then, how remiss it would be on our part to suffer such services to pass unnoticed. Gentlemen, we are indebted to the Stewards not only for the means afforded for our banquet, but also for making every arrangement for the success of the same; to them the programme and all the arrangements are due; and, this being the case, I say it is due from us that we drink health and prosperity to them in a bumper.

Toast.—"THE COMMITTEE."

MR. VICE AND GENTLEMEN,—There are very few amongst us who do not know the vast amount of trouble devolving upon a Committee who undertake the getting up of an entertainment like that which we have had presented to us to-day. The crosses, vexations, and delays that arise before the enterprise assumes a ship-shape form, are matters patent to all those who have ever served on a Committee. Now, for the eminent success attendant on the Committee of this entertainment, we must toast them with hand and heart, for surely they deserve it. Rise, then, gentlemen, and drink with me to "The Health of the Managing Committee."

Toast.—"THE LODGE SURGEON."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND BRETHREN,—There is a gentleman, and a very important officer of our Lodge, whose valuable services have earned for him the grateful thanks and best wishes of every Brother. It is the officer to whom we apply when assailed by sickness and laid on the bed of anguish. He it is who, like a ministering angel, comes to our relief, and where he cannot heal, assuages. I need not tell you that the Lodge Surgeon is the officer to whom I allude, and I am sure there is not a brother in the Lodge who has ever needed the services of Surgeon ——— without having received immediate attention. I say, then, upon a festival like this 'twould be ungrateful and indecorous on our part to pass unnoticed such services as I have alluded to. Join me, then, in our best wishes for the welfare of Brother ———, Lodge Surgeon, and long life to him and his

GENTLEMEN,—A toast has been placed in my hands, and I arise for the purpose of proposing it, but I can assure you that I do so with feelings mingled with pleasure and regret,—pleasure, on the one hand, because I am convinced that the subject of it will meet with your approbation and applause; regret, on the other hand, because I feel that I cannot do sufficient justice to it. But I trust that any

shortcomings of mine will in **no way** detract from the merit of the toast. In the constitution of a ——— Lodge there is an officer whose sphere of action is without the walls of the Lodge room, but nevertheless of the greatest possible importance to the funds,—the management, and the members. It is all very well in the time of health and strength to ejaculate “Throw physic to the dogs, I’ll none of it,” and to talk of kicking out the doctor;

But when ill indeed,
E’en dismissing the doctor don’t always succeed.

No, that will not do. We have the authority of George Colman, who, in his “Broad Grins,” informs us of one Will Waddle trying the experiment, but who, being “ill indeed,” sent for a doctor, and cried, like a ninny, “I have lost many pounds—make me well—there’s a guinea.” When we are out of health we require the services of the Lodge Surgeon, and in Doctor ——— we have a good and efficient officer—one who has only to **be known to be respected**.

Toast.—“THE TREASURER.”

GENTLEMEN,—Whilst doing honour to our several officers, there is one who, although not so prominently before the Lodge, is nevertheless of great importance—I mean the Treasurer. I am sure the trouble he takes on our account, and the many inconveniences he endures for our benefit, would alone entitle him to our grateful thanks; but there is greater cause: our Treasurer is a gentleman who has ever shown the warmest interest in our success, who has watched over and fostered our growth, and is ever ready to assist us if needed; and I say again, that to him our thanks are richly due; and I call on you all to support me in drinking “The Health of the Treasurer.”

Toast.—“PROSPERITY TO THE ——— SOCIETY.”

GENTLEMEN,—In obedience to the request that I should propose the next toast, I gladly rise, and thank those who have had the management of these pleasing proceedings for the honour they have conferred upon me in selecting me to give *the* toast of the evening. Having been connected with one or two kindred societies for many years, and taking a deep interest in the Friendly Society movement, I have closely watched its progress, and have seen, with pleasure and delight, that the artisan no longer looks upon his Lodge, Court, or Club in any other light but the true one, namely, that of an insurance office, though upon a minor scale, whereby he makes provision for the hour of sickness, and, should he be removed by the hand of death, secures his family for a time from the pangs of poverty. Time was when the Odd Fellow, the Forester, or the Druid, attended his society meeting solely for the sake of conviviality—and, indeed, they were originally instituted with this view; but the practical mind of the Englishman soon saw something of greater utility than this, and, without giving up his love for jollity

and good companionship, he gradually worked those "secret" gatherings into such a shape, that societies of this kind are no longer looked upon with suspicion, but are encouraged by the affluent, and receive the fostering care of the Government. As I just now remarked, these societies are small insurance offices, for they give to the mechanic what the insurance office gives to the upper and middle classes, and upon easier terms, the result of having the management of the business in their own hands, at a nominal cost, instead of having an expensive directory and a large staff of managers and agents to share in the profits of the capital. Such societies deserve the assistance of the upper classes, because they very materially lighten the poor-rates by engendering thriftiness, and promoting a spirit of independence among a class who but a few years since naturally looked to the guardians of the poor and the parish surgeon in the day of adversity and affliction. Gentlemen, in conclusion, I give you "Prosperity to the ——— Society, and Health to its Members."

Response by the Secretary.

GENTLEMEN,—Being called upon to respond to the last toast, I thank you on behalf of the Society for the very kind way in which you received its name, and for your cordial wishes for its future welfare. The sentiments expressed by the gentleman who proposed its prosperity, and the enthusiastic manner in which you have endorsed those sentiments, fully convince me that you perfectly understand the nature of our institution, and the principles which it inculcates, a knowledge of which relieves me from the task of entering into any exposition of the character of the Society. But of its financial position I may say this much—that our funds were never in a more flourishing condition, for, with a larger accession of new members than in any previous year—a proof that our intentions are beginning to be understood and appreciated—we have had, I am pleased to say, less sickness and fewer deaths. With these remarks, gentlemen, I beg to again thank you on behalf of the members of the ——— Society [Lodge or Court].

Response by the Stewards or Committee of Management.

GENTLEMEN,—For the very kind way in which you drank our healths, I, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, beg to return you our most hearty thanks. Whatever duties we may have performed have been performed with a singleness of purpose—the sole benefit of the Society; and if those services have given you satisfaction, we are more than repaid. The reception you gave the toast gives us great gratification, and will stimulate our exertions to assist in promoting the prosperity of the Society.

Response.—By the Lodge Surgeon.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND BROTHERS,—The active duties of my profession give but few opportunities of attending the festive board or social gatherings of societies akin to the present; I am therefore not so well versed in speech-making as pill-making. The worthy brother who has done me the honour to propose my health has said, "Throw physic to the dogs;" well, be it so, for I am sure you have an abundance of *draughts* before you more agreeable than those I am in the habit of dispensing, and better adapted to "purge melancholy" than my "mixture as before," or "pills at bedtime." I will therefore content myself by acknowledging the toast you have all drunk with such enthusiasm. I am pleased to hear that my professional conduct has so far merited your esteem. I have now had the honour of being Lodge Surgeon for ——— years, and it may be pleasing for you to know that the members are in good general health. Sickness during the past year has somewhat diminished, a statement borne out by your Secretary's annual report. The great advantages of Friendly Societies to the working class have been so ably discussed by the Chairman, that I need not go further into details; and all that remains for me is to say that I thank you for the kind manner in which you have mentioned my name in connection with the Lodge, and trust that it will go on and prosper as heretofore. Mr. Chairman, Brothers, and Visitors, I thank you.

Response by the Treasurer.

GENTLEMEN,—It is not a very usual thing for an officer holding my position in a society to be called upon to speak, the duties being merely nominal; but I must corroborate what the Secretary has said with reference to the financial business of the past twelve months. Having now had the honour for many years of being your Treasurer, I can conscientiously say that your funds were never in a more healthy condition; and, occupying a similar position in one or two other societies, I can tell you that your position is an enviable one.

Response by an Officer of the Order.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND BROTHERS,—On behalf of the Officers of Lodge ———, of ———,—I beg to respond to the toast which you have done us the honour to drink with so much unanimity. It is at all times pleasing to hear it acknowledged that our efforts to promote the order and well-being of the Lodge have given satisfaction. I can assure you that each of my brother officers has endeavoured faithfully, and at the same time fearlessly, to see that the rules and regulations as laid in our general and bye laws are carried out in their integrity, and I am happy to say that the members have evinced a desire to assist us in every possible way, and to cause our duties to be easily carried out in such a manner as to give you satisfaction. With these few remarks I will conclude by returning you, on behalf of my brother officers, our sincere thanks.

Toast.—"THE VISITORS."—*By the Chairman.*

GENTLEMEN,—Having now run through the whole of my routine toasts in connection with our Order, I will propose for your consideration a toast of a different character. At our annual festival we are at all times pleased to see a large and influential gathering of the Brethren; but there is another class of persons we are at all times glad to see join us,—I allude to the Visitors, and whose health I am sure you will all wish to see done justice to, as we are very much indebted to them in more senses than one; for by their countenancing our social gatherings we learn that our society meets with their approbation. We are also grateful to them for their pecuniary support in the way of donations in aid of our funds. I therefore trust you will all rise on this occasion, and join heart and hand with me to "fill the bumper fair," and drink "Health, Long Life, and Prosperity to the Visitors," coupling with it the name of Mr. ———.

Response to "THE VISITORS."

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—I rise, as a Visitor to your annual festival, to acknowledge the last toast. I am not in the secret of your mysteries and signs, but the password has just been given me to say a few words; I may therefore have an opportunity of making myself an Odd Fellow before I have done. I am at all times pleased to attend at the anniversaries of Friendly Societies, being convinced that they do an immense amount of good to the individual members and to society in general. The working man who has the prudence and forethought to guard against the expenses of sickness, by subscribing a weekly sum from his earnings for that purpose, I have ever found to be a better man in every respect than the one who neglects the duty that he owes to himself, his wife and family, and his fellow-men. Odd Fellows, Foresters, Druids, and Friendly Society men in general do much for themselves by making provisions for sickness and old age, and very materially assist the rate-paying portion of the population. Your Secretary has in his financial statement of the past year proved my assertion; and I think it would be well if at your annual meetings you opened the doors a little wider, to enable more visitors to attend than I am in the habit of seeing. I believe there are many persons in the town who are not aware of one half of the good effected by Friendly Societies, and simply because they are not made acquainted that at the annual dinner others than the members are admitted. Gentlemen, as a mark of my appreciation of the merits of your society, I have much pleasure in handing to your Chairman a guinea to the funds. On behalf of the Visitors, with whom you have coupled my name, I am pleased to acknowledge the toast, and to wish success to the ——— Society.

CO-OPERATION.

Speech on Co-operation and Temperance.

GENTLEMEN,—Various schemes have been devised from time to time by different people for the elevation of the working classes. Some have told them there was a want of more schools; others seemed to think that, by the erection of more churches and chapels, much good would be done for them; others called out loudly for the vote for the working classes, and sought to elevate them in that way. But, after all, however useful each of these things may be in its sphere, they are but imperfect in themselves, and will not really be able to effect much good for the working classes. So long as the working classes look to others for help, so long will they remain in their prostrate condition. The true secret is that they should help themselves. You have all read the old fable of the man whose cart was stuck in the rut, and who called on Hercules to help him out of his difficulty, and was told to put his shoulder to the wheel and get it out himself. So with the working classes. If they are to be elevated, it must be the result of their own efforts; if they are to become superior to their present condition, it must be the result of their own labour and their own exertion. Among all the schemes which have been broached for this purpose, there are none so powerful, so thoroughly effective, as this one of co-operation. Some years since a number of well-meaning men in London started a scheme of co-operation. This went on for some time with varying success; but owing to some circumstances, principally arising from the previous want of education among the working men themselves, the majority of these schemes fell to the ground; but some are still in existence. Since that period the movement has taken a deeper hold of the working classes, as of course it would; for, if there is any truth in the movement, as being harmonious with the nature of man, of necessity it will in course of time be adopted, more especially when it comes to be investigated by the working men themselves. Co-operation is an instinct of man's nature. Man must co-operate if he would employ the faculties nature has implanted within his breast. It pervades the whole history of mankind. We see it in riches, as well as in poverty and crime. There is an old adage that says, "Birds of a feather flock together." "A man is known by the company he keeps." Your thieves and pickpockets co-operate and reside, to a considerable extent, in certain districts. The man who picks a pocket and he who receives the stolen goods to a certain extent co-operate. Co-operation runs throughout the whole realm of nature.

Let us look at the principles of co-operation. You take a grain of wheat, and drop it into the ground, and in the course of some few months you gather from that wheat a harvest; in proportion to the quantity of wheat you have sown, so is the harvest you gather. That is the result of co-operation; but there must be the rain from heaven, and the wind and sun; all these forces must be co-operating and working together before you can gather your harvest as a food for the people. And when you have it, just go a step further. You have got your grain, and you wish it to be made into bread. Here you must bring the principles of co-operation to bear again. It has to be sent to the corn merchant, the miller, and the baker before you can get your bread. All these causes must be brought together before the tradesmen can be supplied with the staff of existence, and before it can be placed on your table.

If you look at the most industrious of the animal tribe, it is the same principle carried out, and it is man alone who is found to co-operate for the purposes of destruction. Man co-operates sometimes for the purposes of evil; but if you look into nature, and watch the beasts and birds of prey, it will be seen that they live, for the most part, a solitary and isolated life, but animals of the most industrious class lead social lives. If the ant is watched, it will be found that it lays up food for the winter in a marvellous and ingenious manner; nay, you may even see two ants co-operate, both pulling as hard as they can at a little bit of straw in order to get it home to their nests. If you look at the workings of the bee in its hive, and see the beautiful and wonderful structure of the comb, stored as it is with honey,—this is all brought about by the principle of co-operation. They start out and search out individually through the whole realm of flower-land, and bring back the honey into their hives, and store it up for the winter. If you go into the Pacific Islands, and see the small insects working constantly together under the sea, and producing that beautiful substance called coral, with which our mantleshelves are adorned; and soil having accumulated, islands are formed, upon which grow the fruits and flowers, and habitations fit for man,—this will be found to be done all by the co-operation of these insects. So I might go on all through the natural world, and show that co-operation is the principle which pervades all industrial economy, not only the human family, but all through the order of creation itself. It is thus that the world has been made a fit residence for man, who is king of the whole creation. After seeing how the lower animals co-operate, does not man also need to co-operate? Men are not created independent of each other; but, on the contrary, are dependent one on the other; and this is only just beginning to be found out. And not only is one man or one town dependent on the other, but also one country on the other. And as the Creator of the world has made various temperatures in various countries, so He has made man all his life thoroughly dependent on his fellow-man, and in the co-operation and work of others, whom he never saw, and who reside, perhaps, at the very antipodes.

Man is not independent. Man is that very complex animal, so to speak, that he is both dependent and independent. There were

portions of his constitution in which he is perfectly independent of any other man's aid ; he is also, at the same time, in other respects, and which could not be denied or doubted, dependent on others not only for material prosperity, but also for elevation and instruction.

Co-operation is no new thing. The first we read of it was shortly after the flood, when it was used for the purpose of building the Tower of Babel. This was not lost sight of ; and if you come down to the present time, it would be found that immense works had been constructed by the aid of co-operation, some by means of Government authority, others of a compulsory nature, in which individuals had been compelled to work in raising certain buildings. Such were the Pyramids in Egypt. People could not understand how it was they were erected. Yet they were the results of co-operation, by which such stupendous works were executed. Nay, our very cities and towns were raised by the same agency. Men came and lived in towns, put house to house, street to street, and square to square, and thus formed one compact and harmonious community—all showing our dependence on each other. Look at our gigantic railways, extending throughout the length and breadth of the land. These could not have been brought about without the principle of co-operation. Engineering skill, capital, and labour, have all combined to bring about the development of railway communication, by which a person may travel the length and breadth of England in comfort and safety. Look at our docks and canals ; look at the Thames ; or go to Liverpool, and see the immense extent of docks there, and you will see the wonderful results of the principles of co-operation. Or see your life insurance companies ; what are they but the exemplification of this very principle of co-operation ? Of late years, too, the joint-stock banks were, through the same principle, brought to a beneficial result. It was only of late that the working classes had sought to relieve themselves by the benefits of co-operation. There appears to have existed for many years with the working classes a sort of idea that capital and labour were antagonistic—that labour had its rights contrary from those of capital ; hence we have had masters and men quarrelling—we have had lock-outs and strikes. Now, I am not a supporter of the old state of the law, which forbids combination among workmen ; I hold it is perfectly justifiable ; that masters and men have a right to combine. But I think, after all, if men saw their true interests, they would find in this principle of co-operation the real means of elevating themselves, and not by mere strikes, which produce a vast amount of misery and wretchedness. Calculations have been made by which it is found the masters gain in the end, for they have capital to depend upon. They suffer a temporary inconvenience, it is true ; but when they get to work again they soon make up for lost time. But the working man loses his all ; he has little to eat at first, and shortly nothing, and has at last to give in to his master. That is the history of most strikes. But if workmen would seek to economize their capital, and save it—for the working classes have capital—they would have wherewith to fall back on in times of adversity. What was capital ? All men started equally, and it was just the result of labour. It was labour that made capital ; it was labour that laid its foundation. If you go

out into a desert wilderness, and wish to make it into a fruitful garden, it must be done by labour. So it was with all things in this world. Men set to work, some being perhaps rather cleverer than others, and contrive to get more work, and more capital comes to their share. Capital was created by labour; and if the working men, when they were labouring, would think and reflect that they were making capital, and what they could save by capital was the result of labour saved, which was capable of being employed to profitable purposes, this would be the beginning of the accumulation of fortunes. A gentleman was pointed out to me the other day, who went to a certain large town in England with the sum of fourpence only in his pocket, and did not know a soul there; now he is worth £20,000 a-year. This was done by saving and economising his labour. His little capital began to thrive and increase, and gradually his income increased to £20,000 a year. I do not say this is possible with every working man; this is an exceptional case. But, after all, the real thing the people want is not incomes of £20,000 a year; many men enjoy themselves more on smaller incomes than others with incomes very much larger. The question for the working man was whether he should not have a large portion of that which he had created. The working man hires himself, and receives his wages, and has not he a right to a certain share or proportion of the profits beyond the mere amount of wages he receives, as a matter of barter between his master and himself? Some think he has; and here the principle of co-operation steps in, and it was sought to give the working man a share of that capital which floats about the country. When capital is once created, it has a marvellous tendency to increase. If a man has a quantity of money and locks it up in a drawer, it will not increase, but will be, at the end of a certain number of years, the same amount as when first put into the drawer; but if he lends it or employs it in trade or manufacture, it naturally has a tendency to increase, so that at the end of twelve months he is a richer man through placing out his money at interest or otherwise, and both himself and the community are benefited. The working classes may have a share in the capital of the country if they will only begin by laying by and saving from their labour. The way to begin is to save a certain proportion of the capital of their incomes.

When you look at the facts as stated on the authority of the late Mr. Porter, of the Board of Trade, and see what the working classes receive in the shape of wages—some 14s., others 20s., it is said, how can they save? I say it is very obvious they can save. Mr. Porter gave it as his calculation that the working classes of this country, in their voluntary practice of using intoxicating drinks and tobacco, spent £53,411,615 annually. It must be seen that here is a lever, here is an engine which, if properly employed, would be of immense assistance to the working classes. It is estimated, from a Parliamentary report, that the loss arising to labour from intoxicating drinks amounts to one day in six throughout the United Kingdom; which means that every working man, taking the average, loses one day in every week, and the great bulk of this loss comes out of the pockets of the working classes themselves. Taking our export trade

alone, this loss to the working classes would amount to the sum of £20,000,000 annually. This sum would form a nice little nucleus of capital with which to begin the elevation of the working classes. In Bolton, it is computed the working classes spend £100,000 a year in strong drink; this is after deducting the amount spent by the middle classes. The *Weekly Dispatch*—and this paper was no friend to the cause of total abstinence—said :—

“We have not scrupled plainly to tell the masses what we observed and thought of their condition and conduct. We are their friends, most by being friends to truth. We have set before their consciences the sins that do most easily beset them. . . . Beer enervates them, stunts their growth, saps their strength, mortgages their physical system for more than it can pay, sends infancy imperfect and feeble into a world of drinking mothers. It takes from each family at least £10 per annum, besides health, happiness, and too often virtue. In fourteen years the savings from its disuse would reach, at compound interest, £400. It would make them independent freeholders.”

I certainly never saw a case put in more striking, clear, and forcible language. Let us see what the working classes could do if they would resolve not to spend these fifty-three millions in drink. The amount employed in the construction of railways to the end of 1860, was £348,130,127. The whole of this amount could be raised by the working classes, if the money spent in drink were saved, in six years. The people are accustomed to consider themselves burdened with taxes, and complain of the National Debt weighing heavily on them, and towards which they contribute so much of their labour. But what is the fact? What is the amount that debt takes from the working classes? It was described by Disraeli as “a mere flea-bite when compared with what is spent in intoxicating drink.” Why, in ten years, if the working classes would consent to do without this drink, they would be able to pay off this enormous bond which weighs them down, and seems likely to weigh them down for generations.

A good deal has been done by co-operative societies. A list of co-operative societies was published by the Conference at Rochdale, containing 150 societies, with 48,184 members, a capital of £333,290, and doing business, in 1861, to the amount of £1,512,117. Of these 121 started since 1856.

If other towns in England would follow the Rochdale Pioneers, they would be the pioneers of such a movement as would completely alter the face of society. The Pioneers commenced in a very humble way in 1844, with 28 members. They saw the evils resulting from strikes, and they thought they had found a remedy for the evil. These 28 men put their heads together, they raised a capital of £28—a very small beginning; but at the present time the societies which started upon that principle now number 345 members, with a capital of upwards of £37,700. The progress of the Pioneers has been gradual and continuous. In 1845 there were 74 members, with a capital of over £100. So it went on till they were able to establish, in connection with their society, first a flour mill, then a manufactory, then a large cotton mill. This was ample evidence of the amount of good the men were doing themselves, and showed also they were capable of conducting a large institution. That which the men of Rochdale have done the men of ——— can do, and other

towns can do. — men are akin to them, and are Englishmen like them. You have only to go to work, and use your own wisdom and experience, to advance yourselves, and that will be found far better than any help you can derive from any other source.

There were great benefits in connection with co-operation beyond the material prosperity which it brought. There were other advantages which resulted from the principle which were more important than a pecuniary result. It was impossible to make a man have a share in a co-operative society, or a bank, or business, without at the same time elevating his character. To what do you attribute the degraded state of the negro race of America but to the very fact that they were kept in a state of bondage and toil, and with no prospect of elevation? So it is with the working classes of this country, many of whom have but a very slight hope of advancement. Many of them seem to have settled down to the conclusion that they are to remain to the end of their days, with their children, mere labouring machines, and to receive but a small amount of remuneration for their toil, and having no hope of advancement in the world. When you once instil into a man that he can become elevated above the condition in which he now exists—even to be the owner of the cottage in which he lives—and having a voice in the government of the State, you have excited within him hopes, and consequently a desire to aim at his own mental improvement as well as material advantage. That this is the case is shown by the working men of Rochdale, who are not insensible to the claims of education, and who really will read good books, and study to improve their minds. In consequence of the laws not allowing them to lend their money for educational purposes, the society has established a library of its own, of which a gentleman who had seen it spoke in the highest terms. The best works in the highest department of literature are there to be found, as well as scientific works, books on political economy, religion, and of the better kind of fiction. These books are circulated among the working classes of Rochdale by means of the library in connection with their stores. This was something wonderful, and not only was the prospect of advantage set before their minds, but it stirred up within them a desire for intellectual improvement. They have also a reading-room at Rochdale. A reading-room was also established in connection with the library. A gentleman visited it in company with Mr. Bright, and he saw periodicals and newspapers lying on the tables. He said, "I don't believe we have in our clubs a better selection of periodicals and newspapers than have these working men of Rochdale." The same results I should like to see with the working men in this town. There is an educational tendency connected with this movement which would tend to bring out the character of the working classes. For instance, a man who is a member of a co-operative society begins to become a prudent man. He has a little capital, and he says, instead of spending and living up to the whole of his income, he will begin to save; and he does that which still further tends to elevate his character—he begins to exercise self-denial. The 53 millions of money spent in intoxicating drinks are raised by small sums of threepences, sixpences, and shillings expended by men of the working classes—spent on Saturday nights,

Sundays, and Mondays. This was the aggregate of the great sum total resulting through intoxicating drink. Where men had left off these things, and become customers to the butcher and baker, their families, which used to be in rags, were now well clothed, and all of them had put on an appearance of respectability.

Well, now, as to the success of the co-operative movement. In order to ensure success in any co-operative movement, there must be certain principles which must guide those who are engaged in the movement. One great principle was, that they must have confidence in one another. It was no use starting without that. The Bible says, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." If the members begin to find fault one with another—if they have no confidence in themselves and in those to whom they entrust the management of their concerns—they will soon find their co-operative scheme will become a grand failure. Above all things, you must determine to succeed. If men determined to succeed, it was generally found they were successful. If the working classes set out with a determination to be successful, they were sure to be successful. You must not be discouraged by small beginnings; everything great has had a small beginning. That magnificent oak was once contained in the germ of a small acorn. It is by study and constant and persistent perseverance from small beginnings that strength was gathered to produce large results. With the principle of vitality—and there was vitality in the co-operative movement, no matter how small your beginnings—with the resolve and determination to succeed, depend upon it you will be sure to succeed. There was one gratifying feature connected with the cash statement of the Pioneers' society; that was, that the whole of the sales had been for ready money. One of the rules they laid down was, never to depart from the principle of buying and selling for ready money. You must at first be sure your society is founded upon right principles; you must then confide in one another, with a determination to succeed, and on the principle of ready money transactions; and then you are certain to have a successful co-operative existence. You must not be daunted by difficulty; there are sure to be difficulties; there never was anything achieved yet which had not to struggle with difficulties at first. Every new thing at its starting has been laughed at. No doubt this was the case at Rochdale, but they succeeded; and if you are resolved to persevere and succeed, you will triumph, and the very men who predicted a failure will come round and say, "We always thought there was something in it, after all."

Another important matter with respect to this movement is, that the working man, to take any part in the co-operative society, must know something of arithmetic. The working man who does not understand whether the balance-sheet is correct or not will be left at the mercy of those who have the affairs in hand. Here was a direct spur—a direct incentive to the working man to improve and educate himself if he meant to embark in a commercial undertaking of this kind. It would tend to make him of industrious habits. When working men complain of their position, and say their masters get too much and themselves too little, and when they think of their

master riding out in his carriage and leading a very nice life—they may just think over this, and continually bear in mind “that if the working men were to save like the masters, and masters were to spend like the working men, their relative positions would soon be altered.” Wealth, after all, is not a curse, but a blessing. We have a right to wealth and money. It is wealth that has created our railways; it is by means of wealth that the enormous commerce of our country is transacted; it produces the comforts and luxuries of life; it brings tea, coffee, and sugar to our shores; tends to civilize and refine man; enables man to educate himself, and to become a civilized human being. Wealth is not a bad thing; it is a good thing. It may be a curse; it is capable of being made a great blessing. It may tyrannize and bring evil in its train. It may be the means of benefiting the whole community, including the working classes themselves. The Bible does not say, “Money is the root of all evil;” but it says, “The *love of money* is the root of all evil.” One great advantage of the co-operative movement is shown in the fact that the working classes may not only benefit themselves as capitalists, but I would just tell you this—that, without asking Government, the franchise is within your own grasp. By means of the co-operative movement, every one of you may have a vote. If you possess a 40s. freehold, you have as much right to give your independent vote as the wealthiest man who comes to the polling-booth. This may be done if you deprive yourselves of some little indulgence which does you no good; and you will thus acquire all the rights, all the duties, and all the privileges of becoming citizens of the greatest empire in the world. After delivering a lecture at Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, I was shown a row of twenty-seven £10-freehold houses, the property of working men, and built by the working men of the co-operative society in that town. The effect of that in the town was such as, I believe, to secure the balance of power which the working men desired. I believe no civil society is perfect until every man is qualified by industry, integrity, intelligence, and by the very fact that he possesses some real interest in the welfare of the State, and being so qualified he has a right to give his voice in the direction of State affairs. These societies tended to make a man accumulate property, made him thoughtful, accustomed him to business transactions; and there was the very surest guarantee, when he had property, that he would exercise his power in a way which should not be detrimental to the interests of the nation. The co-operative movement has the sanction of the very highest authority; but, not to be guided by what others said, you should examine for yourselves on this point, so that you may arrive at a just conclusion in your own mind. You ought not to bow to the dicta of any man. Co-operation had long been used in other places, and why should it not be used here? You perhaps sometimes wonder at the success which attends some men in life. But although every man could not become wealthy, yet every man was capable of advancing himself from that position in which he now stands. “Onwards and upwards” should be your aim. The aim of every man should be to advance himself still higher in life. I know no plan by which the working classes could so well help themselves as by helping one another. You are able to do very

little, you say ; you only earn so much a week ; it is a very small sum, and what can you do towards elevating yourself ? Why, by uniting together small sums till they became large ones, and thus an amount of capital would be got together to start a business, and the result would become something great at last ; you might even equal the Rochdale Pioneers. Above all, if you would save money, you must put away intoxicating drink, for the Temperance movement and the Co-operative movement were twins. These two, if allowed to work together, would help each other. They are, as it are, the life-buoys which are to elevate the working men from the sea in which they are sinking. If you look at the condition of the agricultural labourer, the mechanic, and others, you will find these societies would be a benefit and a blessing to the whole of them. Short-sighted men consider these co-operative societies are going to injure them, in that some part of their profits will be diminished. But it will be found that even these men would be advantaged, for they will begin to save, and in their turn would have more to spend ; and the consequences will be that there would be fewer poor-rates and police-rates, and more money devoted to the elevation of the working classes. Let the working classes set themselves to work, and be determined to elevate and emancipate themselves, and then they will become capitalists and landholders ; and let those in the higher stations of life not attempt to hinder them in their course, but rather to stimulate them in their efforts. Great results would be achieved by a wise co-operation of all classes of society.

LATIN WORDS AND PHRASES EXPLAINED.

- Ab initio.** From the beginning.
Ab uno disce omnes. From one you may judge of the whole.
A fortiori. With stronger reason.
A priori. From a prior reason; from the cause to the effect.
A posteriori. From a posterior reason; from the effect to the cause.
Ad captandum vulgus. To catch the rabble.
Ad infinitum. To infinity; without end.
Ad libitum. At pleasure.
Ad referendum. For further consideration.
Ad valorem. According to the value.
Alias. Otherwise.
Alibi. Elsewhere; proof of having been elsewhere.
Alma mater (Benign Mother). The University.
A mensa et thoro. From bed and board.
Amor patriæ. Love of our country.
Anguis in herba. A snake in the grass.
Anno Domini (A.D.). In the year of our Lord.
Anno Mundi (A.M.). In the year of the world.
Ante meridiem (A.M.). Before noon.
Argumentum ad hominem. Argument applied to the person.
Argumentum ad ignorantiam. Argument drawn from your opponent's ignorance.
Argumentum baculinum. Argument of blows: a cudgel.
Artis est celare artem. The art is to conceal art.
Audi alteram partem. Hear the other party.
Aura popularis. The gale of popular favour.
Bona fide. In good faith.
Brutum fulmen. An impotent threat.
Cacoethes scribendi. An itch for writing.
Capias. You may take (a law term).
Caput mortuum. The worthless remains.
Cæteris paribus. Other circumstances being equal.
Compos mentis. Of sound mind.
Cornu copiæ. The horn of plenty.
Cui bono? To what good will it tend?
Cum privilegio. With privilege.
Currente calamo. With a running pen.

- Custos rotulorum. Keeper of the rolls.
 Data. Things granted.
 Deceptio visus. An illusion of the eye.
 De tacto. From the fact; in possession.
 De jure. From the law; by right.
 De mortuis nil nisi bonum. Of the dead say nothing except what is good.
 Dei gratia. By the grace of God.
 De novo. Anew; over again.
 Deo volente. God willing.
 Desideratum. A thing desired.
 Desunt cætera. The remainder is wanting.
 Divide et impera. Divide and govern.
 Dramatis personæ. The characters in a play.
 Durante placito. During pleasure.
 Durante vita. During life.
 Equilibrium. Equality of weight.
 Ergo. Therefore.
 Errata. Mistakes in printing.
 Esto perpetua. May it last for ever.
 Et cætera (&c.). And the rest.
 Exit. He goes off; departure.
 Exeunt omnes. They all go off.
 Exempli gratia (e.g.). For example.
 Ex cathedra. From the chair.
 Excerpta. Extracts from a work.
 Ex concessio. From what has been conceded.
 Ex nihilo nihil fit. From nothing nothing can come.
 Ex officio. Officially.
 Ex parte. On one side.
 Ex pede Herculem. Judge of the whole from the specimen.
 Experimentum crucis. A decisive experiment.
 Ex tempore. Without premeditation.
 Exuvie. Cast skins of animals.
 Fac simile. An exact copy.
 Felo de se. A self-murderer; a suicide.
 Festina lente. Hasten deliberately.
 Fiat. Let it be done.
 Fiat justitia, ruat cælum. Let justice be done, though ruin ensue.
 Genus irritabile vatum. The irritable race of poets.
 Gratus. For nothing.
 Hiatus. An opening or gap.
 Humanum est errare. To err is human.
 Ibidem. In the same place.
 Idem. The same.
 Id est (i.e.). That is.
 Ignis fatuus. Will-o'-the-Wisp.
 Imitatores servum pecus. Servile herd of imitators.
 Imperium in imperio. A government within a government.
 Imprimatur. Let it be printed.
 Imprimis. In the first place.

- Impromptu. Without study.
 In forma pauperis. As a pauper.
 In limine. At the outset.
 In propria persona. In person.
 In re. In the matter or business of.
 In statu quo. In the former state.
 In terrorem. As a warning.
 Interim. In the meantime.
 Interregnum. The period between two reigns.
 In toto. Entirely.
 In vino veritas. There is truth in wine.
 Ipse dixit. Mere assertion.
 Ipso facto. By the fact itself.
 Item. Also; an article in a bill or account.
 Jure divino. By divine right.
 Jure humano. By human law.
 Lex talionis. The law of retaliation.
 Labor omnia vincit. Labour overcomes everything.
 Lapsus linguæ. A slip of the tongue.
 Litera scripta manet. What is written remains.
 Locum tenens. A substitute or deputy.
 Locus sigilli (L.S.). The place of the seal.
 Magna charta (karta.) The great charter.
 Manes. Departed spirits.
 Maximum. The greatest.
 Memento mori. Remember death.
 Meum et tuum. Mine and thine.
 Minimum. The least.
 Multum in parvo. Much in little.
 Ne cede malis. Yield not to misfortune.
 Nemine contradicente (nem. con.). None opposing.
 Ne plus ultra. No farther; the utmost point.
 Ne quid nimis. Too much of one thing is good for nothing.
 Ne sutor ultra crepidam. The shoemaker should not go beyond his last; persons should attend to their own business.
 Nolens volens. Willing or unwilling.
 Non compos. Out of one's senses.
 Noscitur ex sociis. One is known by his associates.
 Nota bene (N.B.). Mark well or attentively.
 Omnibus. For all.
 Onus probandi. The burden of proving.
 Otium cum dignitate. Leisure or retirement with dignity.
 Par nobile fratrum. O noble pair of brothers! (Ironical.)
 Passim. Everywhere.
 Pendente lite. While the suit is pending.
 Per cent (centum). Per hundred.
 Per fas et nefas. Through right and wrong.
 Per saltum. By a leap.
 Per se. By itself.
 Pinxit. Painted it.
 Posse comitatus. The civil force of the county.

- Post meridiem (P.M.). The afternoon.
 Postulata. Things required.
 Prima facie. At first view.
 Primum mobile. The first mover; the main spring
 Principiis obsta. Oppose the beginnings of evil.
 Pro et con. For and against.
 Pro forma. For form's sake.
 Pro hac vice. For this time.
 Pro re nata. For the occasion.
 Pro tempore. For the time.
 Quantum libet. As much as is pleasing.
 Quantum sufficit. As much as is sufficient.
 Quid nunc? What now? A newsmonger.
 Quid pro quo. One thing for another; tit for tat.
 Quod erat demonstrandum, or Q.E.D. That which was to be proved.
 Quondam. Formerly.
 Quot homines, tot sententiæ. So many men, so many opinions.
 Rara avis. A rare bird; a prodigy.
 Requiescat in pace. May he rest in peace.
 Re infecta. Without accomplishing the matter.
 Respice finem. Look to the end.
 Resurgam. I shall rise again.
 Scandalum magnatum. Scandal against the nobility.
 Scilicet (sc.) To wit.
 Scire facias. Cause it to be known.
 Semper idem. Always the same.
 Semper paratus. Always prepared.
 Seriatim. In regular order.
 Silent leges inter arma. Laws are silent in the midst of arms.
 Sine die. Without fixing a day.
 Sine qua non. Without which it cannot; an indispensable condition.
 Statu quo. In the state in which it was.
 Sua cuique voluptas. Every one has his own pleasure.
 Suaviter in modo, fortiter in re. Gentle in manner, but firm in acting.
 Sub pœna. Under a penalty.
 Sub iudice lis est. The cause is yet before the judge.
 Sub silentio. In silence.
 Sui generis. The only one of the kind; singular.
 Suum cuique. Let every one have his own.
 Summum bonum. The chief good.
 Tædium vitæ. Weariness of life; ennui.
 Tabula rasa. A smooth tablet; a mere blank.
 Tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur in illis. Times change, and we change with them.
 Tria juncta in uno. Three joined in one.
 Toties quoties. As often as.
 Ultimus (ult.) The last.
 Una voce. With one voice.

- Utile dulci. The useful with the agreeable.
Vacuum. An empty space.
Vade mecum. Come with me; a companion.
Væ victis. Woe to the vanquished.
Veni, vidi, vici. I came, I saw, I conquered.
Venienti occurrere morbo. Meet the disease in the beginning.
Verbatim. Word for word.
Versus. Against.
Vestigia nulla retrorsum. There are no returning steps.
Via. By the way of.
Vice versa. The reverse.
Vide. See; refer to.
Vide ut supra. See what is stated above.
Vi et armis. By main force.
Vis inertiae. The force or property of inanimate matter.
Viva voce. Orally; by word of mouth.
Viz. (videlicet.) To wit.
Vox et præterea nihil. Voice (or sound) and nothing more.
VIVAT REGINA! LONG LIVE THE QUEEN.
-

FRENCH AND OTHER FOREIGN WORDS AND PHRASES IN COMMON USE, EXPLAINED.

- A-la-mode** (ah-la-mode). In the fashion.
Amateur (ahm-at-ehr). A virtuoso.
Apropos (ap-ro-po). To the purpose ; by the bye.
Bagatelle (ba-ga-tel). A trifle.
Beau (bo). A gaily dressed person ; an admirer.
Beau monde (bo-mond). The gay or fashionable world.
Beaux esprits (boz-es-pree). Men of wit.
Belle (bei). A fine or fashionable lady ; a beauty.
Belles lettres (bell-lettr). Polite literature.
Billet doux (bil-le-doo). A love-letter.
Bon mot (bohn-mo). A smart or witty saying.
Bon ton (bohn-tong). In high fashion.
Bon jour (bohn-zhur). Good day, or good morning.
Bon vivant (bohn-veev-ahn). A high liver ; a choice spirit.
Boudoir (boo-dwar). A cabinet, small closet, or private room.
Bravura (bra-voo-ra). Ital. A song of difficult execution ; difficult, brilliant.
Bulletin (bool-le-tang). An official account of news ; certificate of health.
Bureau (bu-ro). An office desk.
Calibre (ca-lee-br). The capacity or compass of the mind or intellect.
Caoutchouc (coo-chook). India rubber.
Cap-a-pie (cap-ah-pee). From head to foot.
Carte blanche (cart-blansh). One's own terms.
Chamois (sham-wa). A species of goat.
Champetre (shahn-paytr). Rural.
Chaperon (shap-er-ong). A gentleman who protects or waits on a lady in a public assembly (properly a kind of hood or cap worn by a knight).
Charlatan (shar-la-tan). A quack.
Chateau (shah-to). A castle.
Chef-d'œuvre (shay-doovr). A masterpiece.
Chevaux de frise (shev-o-deh-freez). A spiked fence.
Cicerone (shee-shai-ro-ny). Ital. A guide or conductor.
Ci-devant (see-de-vang). Formerly.
Clique (cleek). A party or gang.

- Comme il faut (com-ee-fo). As it should be.
 Con amore (con-a-mo-re). With love; gladly.
 Connoisseur (con-a-sehr). A skilful judge.
 Contour (con-tour). The outline of a figure.
 Conversazione (con-ver-sat-ze-o-ny). Ital. A meeting of company.
 Corps (core). A body of men.
 Cortege (cor-taje). A train of attendants; a retinue.
 Coup de grace (coo-de-grass). The finishing stroke.
 Coup de main (coo-de-mahng). A sudden and successful attack.
 Coup d'œil (coo-deuhl). A glance of the eye.
 Debut (dee-boo). First appearance.
 Denouement (dee-noo-mong). The winding up.
 Dernier ressort (dairn-yair-ressor). The last shift or resource.
 Depot (de-po). A store or magazine.
 Detour (deh-toor). A circuitous march.
 Devoir (dev-waur). Duty; respects.
 Dieu et mon droit (Dieu-a-mon-drwau). God and my right.
 Dishabille (dis-ah-bee). An undress.
 Domicile (dom-e-seel). Abode.
 Double entendre (doo-ble-on-tong-der). Double meaning.
 Douceur (doo-soor). A present or bribe.
 Eclaircissement (ec-lair-cis-mong). An explanation.
 Eclat (e-claw). Splendour; with applause.
 Elite (ai-leet). Chosen; select.
 Eleve (e-lave). A pupil.
 Embonpoint (ahn-bon-pwawn). In good condition.
 Encore (ahn-core). Again.
 En masse (an-masse). In a mass or body.
 En passant (an-pas-sang). In passing; by the bye.
 Ennui (an-wee). Wearisomeness.
 Entre nous (antr-noo). Between ourselves.
 Entree (an-tray). Entrance.
 Envelope (ahn-v-lope). A cover for a letter.
 Epaulette (ep-o-let). A shoulder-knot.
 Esprit de corps (espre-cis-deh-core). The spirit of the body or party.
 Estafette (es-tah-fet). An express.
 Etiquette (et-e-ket). Ceremony.
 Facade (fah-sahd). Front of a building.
 Faux pas (fo-pah). A false step; misconduct.
 Fete (fate). A feast or festival.
 Feu de joie (feu-deh-zhwaw). A discharge of firearms at a rejoicing.
 Fille de chambre (feel-de-shambr). A chambermaid.
 Finale (fee-nah-le). Ital. The end; the close.
 Fracas (frah-cah). A squabble.
 Gendarmes (jang-darm). Soldiers; police.
 Gout (goo). Taste.
 Hauteur (ho-tehr). Haughtiness.
 Honi soit qui mal y pense (ho-nee-swaw-kee-mahl-e-pahns). Evil
 to him that evil thinks.
 Hors de combat (hor-de-cohn-bah). Disabled.

- Incognito. Incog. ; in disguise.
 Jeu d'esprit (zheu-des-pree). Play of wit ; a witticism.
 Jeu de mots (zheu-de-mo). Play upon words.
 Levee (lev-ay). A morning visit.
 Liqueur (le-quehr). A cordial.
 Mal a propos (mal-ap-ro-po). Unseasonably, or unbecoming.
 Mauvaise honte (mo-vaish-hont). False or unbecoming modesty.
 Mignonette (min-yo-net). A sweet-smelling flower.
 Naivete (nah-eev-tay). Ingenuousness ; simplicity.
 Nom de guerre (nong-deh-gair). An assumed name.
 Nonchalance (nohn-sha-lahnce). Coolness ; indifference.
 Nonpareil (nohn-par-el). Without an equal ; matchless.
 On dit (ohn dee). A flying report.
 Outre (oo-tray). Extraordinary ; **eccentric**.
 Parole (par-ole). Word of honour.
 Parterre (par-tare). A flower garden (**level ground**).
 Patois (pat-waw). Provincialism.
 Penchant (pahn-shahn). A leading or inclination.
 Perdu (per-doo). Lost ; concealed through fear.
 Petit maitre (petty-maytr). A small master ; a fop.
 Protege (pro-tay-jay). One that is patronised and protected.
 Qui vive (kee-veev). Who goes there ? On the alert.
 Ragout (rah-goo). A highly seasoned dish.
 Rencontre (rahn-cohntr). An unexpected meeting ; an **encounter**.
 Rendezvous (rahn-day-voo). The place of meeting.
 Rouge (rooge). Red paint.
 Ruse de guerre (roos-deh-gair). A trick or stratagem of war.
 Sang froid (sahn-fraw). Coolness.
 Sans (sang). Without.
 Savant (sav-ang). A learned man.
 Sobriquet (so-bre-kay). A nickname.
 Soi-distant (swaw-dee-zang). Self-styled ; **pretended**.
 Soiree (swaw-ry). An evening party.
 Souvenir (soov-neer). Remembrance.
 Tapis (tap-ee). The carpet ; " on the tapis," under consideration.
 Tete-a-tete (tait-ah-tait). Head to head ; a private conversation.
 Tirade (tee-rad). A long invective speech.
 Tout ensemble (too-tahn-sahn-bl). The whole.
 Valet de chambre (val-e-deh-sham-br). A footman.
 Vis-a-vis (vees-a-vee). Face to face.
 Vive le roi (veev-ler-waw) ! **Long live the king !**

LATIN GRACE—NON NOBIS, DOMINE.

Non nobis, Domine—
Non nobis,
Sed nomini tuo
Da gloriam.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

Not unto us, O Lord—not unto us, but unto Thy name, be all the
praise.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM.

God save our gracious Queen !
Long live our noble Queen !
God save the Queen !
Send her, victorious,
Happy, and glorious,
Long to reign over us ;
God save the Queen !

O Lord our God, arise,
Scatter her enemies,
And make them fall !
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks :
On Thee our hopes we fix,
O save us all !

Thy choicest gifts in store
On her be pleased to pour !
Long may she reign !
May she defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the Queen !



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